

Intro to Theatre
THEA 1310-W02
Fall 2020

Instructor: Eva Gil (she/her/hers)
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Office: 432-837-8372
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11am-12pm
Fri 12-1pm (& by appt)
Classroom: Zoom
Meeting Times MWF 11-11:50am

Course Catalog Description:

A survey of the elements of the theatre and how they were formed. What makes theatre? Where has it come from and what is the future?

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will understand the origins and basis of theatre.
2. The student will explore the framework of how theatre is created.
3. The student will learn to analyze plays and become an educated observer.
4. The student will have hands-on experience in several aspects of theatre creation.

Texts:

Fences by August Wilson

Proof by David Auburn

Sweat by Lynn Nottage

Laughs in Spanish by Alexis Scheer

No purchasing required. Copies will be made available at the library or via PDF.

Additional assigned readings, viewings, etc will be made available via Blackboard.

Course Assignments:

All written assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by start of class on the date due.

Class Discussions

There will be discussions of the readings and viewings. Come prepared with notes, questions, etc. To get full credit for this portion of the course you must be participating in each discussion.

Text Analysis

Worksheets will be provided for the analysis of plays and characters. Due dates and further info on Blackboard.

Reflection Paper

You will answer questions about your learning and creative process. Due dates and further info will be on Blackboard.

Scenes

You will be assigned a scene and will rehearse and perform the memorized scene in class.

Dramaturgy Project

You will work in groups to do research on the play *Sweat* and present it to the class.

Design Project

You will do a project where you each create a design and present it for *Laughs in Spanish*.

Final Group Project

You will do a group project where you create a piece of theatre. Some will act, one will direct, there will be designers. You will present it to the class.

Play Analysis

You will watch 2 plays this semester, of your own choice, and analyze them. Further info and due dates on Blackboard.

Final Exam

No final exam but Play Analysis 1&2 due uploaded, Reflection Paper due uploaded to Blackboard by our Final Exam Period: Tues 12/8 10:15am -12:15pm, upload by 12:15pm.

Course Grading: 500 pts total

Attendance: 75 pts

Discussions/Participation: 75 pts

Text Analysis: 2 @ 20 = 40 pts

Reflection Paper: 20 pts

Acting Scene: 50 pts

Group Dramaturgy Project: 50 pts

Design Project: 50 pts

Final Group Project: 100 pts

Play Analysis 1&2: 40 pts

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):

Additional readings, discussion questions, and other assignments posted on Blackboard.

Week 1

Mon 8/24: Syllabus, Intros, What is theatre?

Wed 8/26: Origins, Elements, A/B Scenes

Fri 8/28: Roles in Theatre

Week 2

Mon 8/31: Roles in the Theatre continued

Wed 9/2: Approaching a script, text analysis

Fri 9/4: Interpretation of script into production. Assign: Read *Fences* by August Wilson, prepare discussion questions (will be on Blackboard).

Week 3

Mon 9/7: No classes-- Labor Day

Wed 9/9: Discuss *Fences*. Actor text analysis

Fri 9/11: Actor text analysis continued, Assign: Text Analysis for *Fences* scene.

Week 4

Mon 9/14: *Fences* viewing, Due: text Analysis for *Fences* scene uploaded to Blackboard.

Wed 9/16: *Fences* viewing

Fri 9/18: *Fences* viewing, discuss actor choices, set design, etc. Assign: Read *Proof* by David Auburn, prepare discussion questions (will be on Blackboard)

Week 5

Mon 9/21: Discuss *Proof*, assign scenes

Wed 9/23: Table Work for scenes/Rehearse

Fri 9/25: Rehearse

Week 6

Mon 9/28: Rehearse

Wed 9/30: Rehearse

Fri 10/2: Rehearse

Week 7

Mon 10/5: Rehearse *lines memorized

Wed 10/7: Rehearse

Fri 10/9: Rehearse

Week 8

Mon 10/12: Graded: Perform Scenes

Wed 10/14: Finish scenes if needed, spyback

Fri 10/16: Discuss Final Group Project. Text Analysis due on Blackboard. Assign: Read *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage and prepare discussion questions

Week 9

Mon 10/19: Discuss *Sweat*. What is Dramaturgy?

Wed 10/21: Dramaturgy Project

Fri 10/23: Dramaturgy Project

Week 10

Mon 10/26: Present Dramaturgy for *Sweat*

Wed 10/28: Finish Dramaturgy if needed. What is Design?

Fri 10/30: Designers. Assign: Read *Laughs in Spanish* by Alexis Scheer and prepare discussion questions

Week 11

Mon 11/2: Discuss *Laughs in Spanish*. Discuss Design elements, given textual information

Wed 11/4: Work on Design Project

Fri 11/6: Work on Design Project

Week 12

Mon 11/9: Present Design Project

Wed 11/11: Finish Design Project (if needed)

Fri 11/13: Final Group Project begins rehearsals.

Week 13

Mon 11/16: Designers and Directors meet, Actors rehearse

Wed 11/18: Rehearse

Fri 11/20: Rehearse

Week 14

Mon 11/23: Rehearse

Wed 11/25-Fri 11/27- no classes-Thanksgiving

Week 15

Mon 11/30: Final Project Presentations/Scenes

Wed 12/2: (Final day of classes) Final Project Presentations/Scenes

Week 16-Finals Week

No exam but Play Analysis 1&2 due uploaded, Reflection Paper due uploaded to Blackboard by our Final Exam Period: Tues 12/8 10:15am -12:15pm. Due by 12:15pm.

Course Policies:

1. Phones are put away and ringers off for the duration of class.
2. No gum, no food or beverages (water ok).
3. Please let me know if you have physical limitations (injuries, limitations, etc) or if any arise if we are doing physical work.
4. Please be respectful of each other in regards to constructive criticism; receive and give feedback in a professional, courteous manner.
5. There should be no aggression, micro, or macro toward each other. We cannot be vulnerable in this art form or in a learning space if we are working in a negative environment. Please bring me any issues.
6. Leave your day at the door, come into class with "clean feet." Be ready to work with joy, curiosity, and discipline.
7. Be prepared with your work, have pen/pencil and notebook ready to take notes if needed, have scenes printed out (not on phones).
8. I do not accept late work unless there has been an emergency and I have been notified via email before the due date of the assignment.
9. Written work must be proofed/spell checked. Points will be taken off for errors.

10. If you are absent on the day of a final presentation (scene, sharing, final project) you will receive a zero unless there is an emergency and a plan has been established.

11. Attendance: this class is participation-heavy. You cannot experience the work if you are absent. 400 pts (of total 500) are based on your being in class and participating! I allow 2 absences per semester with no penalty on your participation grade. After that, it is 2 pts off per absence from Attendance points allotment. Per Sul Ross policy at “9 absences a student may be dropped from the course.”

12. There might be material presented that you find challenging; please be open-minded. As actors we will be asked to play many different roles with different moral codes, behaviors, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, etc. sometimes far from our own experiences and points of view. If you are to explore this work deeply, you must allow yourself the creative freedom to explore vantage points that are different from your own. Please bring me your concerns.

*Please see Student Handbook for additional Sul Ross policies on grading, attendance, honor code, Accommodations, etc. <https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook>

Student Resources:

Accommodations

Students needing academic assistance or accommodations should contact the ADA Coordinator
Phone: 432-837-8203 <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

Tutoring/Writing Center

Students who would like assistance with classwork and writing skills: Phone: 432-837-8865.
Email: tutoring@sulross.edu. More info: <https://www.sulross.edu/TLC>

SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone 432-837-8123.

Office of Information Tech

Help Desk: 432-837-8888 Email: techassist@sulross.edu

Blackboard:

Help Desk 24/7: Phone: 888-837-6055. Email: blackboardsupport @sulross.edu

Student Health Services

Phone: 432-837-8102. Email: health@sulross.edu

<https://www.sulross.edu/page/343/student-health-services>

Sexual Misconduct Resources

Student Counseling Services: Phone: 432-837-8203. Ferguson Hall Room 112

<https://www.sulross.edu/sexual-misconduct-resources>

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process.