

Intro to the Theatre

THEA 1310-Z01

Spring 2021

Class Meeting time: MWF 2-2:50pm

Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 914 2152 4331

Instructor: Eva Gil

Office: Fine Arts Building, 203B

Email: eva.gil@sulross.edu

Cell: 917-331-9273 Office: 432-837-8372

Office Hours: Drop-in or zoom MWF 11am-12pm or by appointment (send an email to set up a time)

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:

Proof by David Auburn

Jitney by August Wilson

Laughs in Spanish by Alexis Scheer

Sweat by Lynn Nottage

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. Students must have daily access to zoom, Blackboard and Sul Ross email

Course Assignments:

All written assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by start of class on the date due. Every day an assignment is late it's 5% off grade (for up to one week, after which work is no longer accepted). Quizzes are taken in class and will not be taken at a later date unless there's been an illness/emergency and you have contacted me ahead of time.

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.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes on Blackboard for assessing comprehension of the plays we are studying.

Acting Scene

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

Dramaturgy Project

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

Costume Design Project

You will create a costume design and present it for *Laughs in Spanish*.

Set Design Project

You will create a set design for *Sweat* and present it in class.

Final Group Project

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

Play Viewing Analysis

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

Self-Assessment

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

Final Exam

No final exam but your Self-Assessment will be due uploaded to Blackboard by our Final Exam Period: 5/5 2-5pm

Course Grading:

Attendance: 75 pts

Discussions/Participation: 75 pts

Quizzes: 4 @ 10 = 40 pts

Self-Assessment: 30 pts

Acting Scene: 50 pts

Group Dramaturgy Project: 50 pts

Set Design Project: 50 pts

Costume Design Project: 50 pts

Final Group Project: 50 pts

Play Viewing Analysis: 2 @ 15 = 30 pts

=500 pts total

A= 450-500 pts

B= 400-449 pts

C= 350-399 pts

D= 300-349 pts

F= 0-299 pts

Course Policies:

1. Phones are put away and ringers off for the duration of class. (If there's a reason you need to be contacted in class, please let me know).
2. No food or beverages consumed during class (water ok and encouraged).
3. Please be respectful of each other in regard to constructive criticism; receive and give feedback in a professional, courteous manner.
4. 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.
5. Leave your day at the door, come into class with "clean feet." Be ready to work with joy, curiosity, and discipline.
6. Written work must be proofed/spell checked. Points will be taken off for errors.
7. If you are absent on the day of a presentation you will receive a zero unless there is an emergency and a plan has been established and I have been contacted PRIOR to class as well as your scene partner.
8. Attendance: this class is participation heavy. You cannot experience the work if you are absent. Most of the points are based on your being in class and participating! It will be very difficult to make up missed classes. I allow 2 absences per semester with no penalty

on your Attendance grade. After that, it is 2 pts off per absence from Attendance point allotment. Per Sul Ross policy at: 9 absences for MWF or 6 for T/TH, a student may be dropped from the course. That being said, if you are ill please do not come to class, notify me and we can make arrangements.

9. 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 than your own. Please bring me your concerns.
10. On Zoom, have cameras on, try to have good lighting and find a place where you can focus and not feel self-conscious. If there's a reason you cannot have your camera on, please let me know.
11. Grades (with feedback on assignments) will be posted on Blackboard where you can also see your Cumulative grade. Attendance/Participation points will be assessed at Mid-term and at Finals.

Student Resources:

Office Hours

I am available during the posted office hours and by appointment, if you are needing assistance with course work please reach out via email: eva.gil@sulross.edu

Student with Disabilities

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

<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>

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:

Phone: 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.

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

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):

Readings, discussion questions, and assignment details posted on Blackboard. Written assignments are to be uploaded on Blackboard by start of class the day due.

Week 1	In-class Activity:	Due in class:	Due on Blackboard:
Mon 1/11	Syllabus, Intros. What is theatre and why?		
Wed 1/13	Origins, Elements		
Fri 1/15	Roles in Theatre		
Week 2			
Mon 1/18	MLK Jr. - No class		
Wed 1/20	Roles in Theatre		
Fri 1/22	Approaching a script		
Week 3			
Mon 1/25	Script Analysis		
Wed 1/27	Script Analysis		
Fri 1/29	Script Analysis for Actors		
Week 4	<u>Acting Unit</u>		
Mon 2/1	A/B Scenes		
Wed 2/3	A/B Scenes		
Fri 2/5	Improv		
Week 5			
Mon 2/8	<i>Proof</i> Discussion	Discuss <i>Proof</i> , Quiz	
Wed 2/10	<i>Proof</i> Acting Analysis		
Fri 2/12	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Week 6			
Mon 2/15	<i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Wed 2/17	<i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Fri 2/19	<i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Week 7			
Mon 2/22	<i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Wed 2/24	<i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Fri 2/26	Perform Scenes	Acting Scene Graded	
Week 8	<u>Dramaturgy Unit</u>		
Mon 3/1	<i>Jitney</i> Discussion	Discuss/Quiz <i>Jitney</i>	
Wed 3/3	Dramaturgy		
Fri 3/5	Dramaturgy		Play Analysis #1 due

Week 9	Spring Break 3/6-3/14		
Week 10	(Mid-term)		
Mon 3/15	Dramaturgy		
Wed 3/17	Dramaturgy	Group Dramaturgy Presentations	
Fri 3/19	Dramaturgy	Group Dramaturgy Presentations	Team Assessment #1
Week 11	<u>Costume Design Unit</u>		
Mon 3/22	<i>Laughs in Spanish</i> Discussion	Discuss/Quiz <i>Laughs in Spanish</i>	
Wed 3/24	Costume Design		
Fri 3/26	Costume Design		
Week 12			
Mon 3/29	Costume Design		
Wed 3/31	Costume Design Presentations	Costume Design Presentations	
Fri 4/2	No class-Good Friday		
Week 13	<u>Set Design Unit</u>		
Mon 4/5	Discuss <i>Sweat</i>	Discuss/Quiz <i>Sweat</i>	
Wed 4/7	Set Design		
Fri 4/9	Set Design		
Week 14			
Mon 4/12	Set Design Presentations	Presentations	
Wed 4/14	Final Group Project begins		
Fri 4/16	Rehearse/Design		
Week 15			
Mon 4/19	Rehearse/Design		
Wed 4/21	Rehearse/Design		
Fri 4/23	Rehearse/Design		Play Analysis #2 due
Week 16			
Mon 4/26	Final Group Projects	Presentations	
Wed 4/28	Final Group Projects	Presentations	
Fri 4/29	Final Group Projects	Presentations	Team Assessment #2
Week 17	Final Exam: 5/5 2-5pm		Self-Assessment due