

# **Intro to the Theatre**

THEA 1310-Z01

Fall Semester 2021

Class Meeting time: MWF 10-10:50am

Class Location: Web Delivered: Class is here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72849391311>

Instructor: Eva Gil

Office: Fine Arts Building, 203B

Email: [eva.gil@sulross.edu](mailto:eva.gil@sulross.edu)

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

Office Hours: Drop by my office MWF 11am-12pm or by appointment if another time needs to be scheduled (send an email to set up a time at office or on zoom).

## **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:**

**SLO 1** Students will develop the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance and/or design.

**SLO 2** The student will develop the ability to employ analytical and critical thinking skills through directing, playwriting, theatre history and script analysis, so that they will work creatively and concretely with actors and technicians in mounting laboratory theatrical productions.

**SLO 3** The student will develop the ability to demonstrate and apply standard industry requirements to all aspects of technical production.

## **Additional 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.

## **Marketable Skills:**

1. Strong oral and written communication skills.
2. Strong analytical skills.
3. Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

## **Course Texts:**

*Proof* by David Auburn

*Laughs in Spanish* by Alexis Scheer

*Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau

These plays will be on Blackboard. Additional assigned readings, viewings, etc will be made available via Blackboard. Students must have daily access to zoom, Blackboard and Sul Ross

email. If you have technical difficulties with any of these systems contact OIT or Blackboard Help Line to fix any issues.

### **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 10% off grade (for up to one week, after which work it 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 many times discussion questions will be provided in advance. Come prepared with notes, questions, etc. To get full credit for this portion of the course you must be participating in each discussion, you will be called on, please prepare accordingly.

### Quizzes

There will be quizzes on Blackboard taken during class, 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.

### 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 *Skeleton Crew* and present it in class.

### Playwriting Project

You will write a short play.

### Final Group Project

You will do a group project where you create a piece of theatre. There will be designers, actors, director/playwrights. You will present it to the class during our Final Exam Period.

### Play Viewing Analysis

You will watch 2 plays this semester and analyze them. If you are on campus, one of the plays will be *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward presented by the Theatre Program from October 15-31.

### Self-Assessment

You will answer questions about your learning and creative process and upload to Blackboard.

### Final Exam

We will present the Final Group Project during our Final Exam period which is on Friday 12/3 10:15am-12:15pm

## **Course Grading:**

Attendance: 45 pts  
Discussions/Participation: 40 pts  
Quizzes: 3 @ 20 = 60 pts  
Self-Assessment: 25 pts  
Acting Scene: 50 pts  
Set Design Project: 50 pts  
Costume Design Project: 50 pts  
Playwriting Project: 50 pts  
Final Group Project: 50 pts  
Play Viewing Analysis: 2 @ 40 = 80 pts  
=500 pts total

## **Course Grading:**

A= 450-500 pts      B= 400-449 pts      C= 350-399 pts      D= 300-349 pts      F= 0-299 pts

## **Important Fall Semester dates:**

8/23 Start of Fall Semester classes  
8/26 Last day to register/change classes  
9/6 Labor Day, no classes  
9/8 Last day to drop 16 wk class without being on Academic Record  
10/18 Mid-term  
11/24-26 Thanksgiving Break, no classes  
12/1 Last Day of classes  
12/2 Dead Day  
12/3, 12/6-8 Final Exam Period  
12/9 Grades due for Graduating Seniors  
12/10 Commencement  
12/13 Grades due for all other students

## **Core Curriculum Courses**

### **For Core Curriculum Courses for 2021-2022**

- Critical Thinking: Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication: Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

## **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 regarding 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. Take your written work to the Tutoring Center if you need assistance with your writing skills. I highly recommend getting the free Grammarly Ap and using it before you turn in your written work to catch errors, if you do not have spellcheck on your device. You should proof all your written work before submitting.
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.
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. You should not be multi-tasking while on Zoom/in class.
11. If you have questions about Covid protocols or need to Self-Report if you have a positive test, please go to this site: <https://srinfo.sulross.edu/covid-19/> Also, inform your professors so that accommodations can be established. You must self-report! Free testing will be Mondays and Thursdays this fall.
12. 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. You are able to see what your current grade is on Blackboard. You should keep track of your own absences. They will only be logged at Mid-term and at the end of the semester.

## **Student Resources and Policy Statements:**

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are when a student may drop in and ask their Professor questions about their Coursework, etc. The hours and location are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you are not free at that time you may request an appointment for another time.

### **Tutoring/Writing Center**

Students who would like assistance with classwork and writing skills: Phone: 432-837-8865.

Email: [tutoring@sulross.edu](mailto:tutoring@sulross.edu). More info: <https://www.sulross.edu/TLC>

\*I highly recommend getting the free Grammarly Ap and using it before you turn in your written work to catch errors if you do not have spellcheck on your device. You should proof all your written work before submitting. The entire Microsoft Suite is available to you for free, contact OIT.

### **Kognito Training**

Kognito At-Risk for Students is an online, 45-minute training program designed to help you recognize signs of emotional distress, effectively discuss your concerns, and refer students to mental health counseling. If you complete this training program, take a screenshot of the certification screen and email it to me and I'll give you 10 pts of extra credit:

<https://blogs.sulross.edu/counseling/kognito-training-mobile-friendly/>

### **Libraries**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine, 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](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123). The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass, offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, [library.swtjc.edu](http://library.swtjc.edu). The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

### **Office of Information Tech Help Desk:**

Phone: 432-837-8888 Email: [techassist@sulross.edu](mailto:techassist@sulross.edu)

### **Blackboard Help Desk 24/7:**

Phone: 888-837-6055. Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

### **Student Mental Health Services**

To get Mental Health Counseling, call 432-837-8203 or stop by the Counseling Center, Ferguson Hall, Room 112

<https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/mental-health-counseling-services/>

### **Sexual Misconduct Resources**

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

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

### **SRSU Disability Services**

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 each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact

Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **SRSU Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### **Diversity Statement**

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."

## **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.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>In-class Activity:</b>	<b>Due in class:</b>	<b>Due on Blackboard:</b>
Mon 8/23	Syllabus, Intros. What is theatre and why?		
Wed 8/25	Origins, Elements		
Fri 8/27	Roles in Theatre		
<b>Week 2</b>			
Mon 8/30	Roles in Theatre		
Wed 9/1	Roles in Theatre		
Fri 9/2	Approaching a script		
<b>Week 3</b>			
Mon 9/6	Labor Day-No classes		
Wed 9/7	Script Analysis		
Fri 9/9	Script Analysis for Actors		
<b>Week 4</b>	<u>Acting Unit</u>		
Mon 9/13	A/B Scenes		
Wed 9/15	A/B Scenes		
Fri 9/17	Improv		
<b>Week 5</b>			
Mon 9/20	<i>Proof</i> Discussion	Discuss <i>Proof</i> , Quiz	
Wed 9/22	<i>Proof</i> Acting Analysis		
Fri 9/24	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
<b>Week 6</b>			
Mon 9/27	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Wed 9/29	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Fri 10/1	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		Play Analysis #1 due
<b>Week 7</b>			
Mon 10/4	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Wed 10/6	Perform <i>Proof</i> Scenes	Acting Scene Graded	
Fri 10/8	Perform <i>Proof</i> Scenes Costume Design Intro	Acting Scene Graded	

<b>Week 8</b>			
Mon 10/11	<i>Laughs in Spanish</i> Discussion	Quiz <i>Laughs in Spanish</i>	
Wed 10/13	Costume Design		
Fri 10/15	Costume Design		*If on campus <i>Blithe Spirit</i>
			Runs Oct 15-31
<b>Week 9</b>			
Mon 10/18	Costume Design Presentations	Costume Design Presentations	
Wed 10/20	Costume Design Presentations	Costume Design Presentations	
Fri 10/22	Set Design Intro		
<b>Week 10</b>	<u>Set Design Unit</u>		
Mon 10/25	Discuss <i>Skeleton Crew</i>	Quiz <i>Skeleton Crew</i>	
Wed 10/27	Set Design		
Fri 10/29	Set Design		
<b>Week 11</b>			
Mon 11/1	Set Design Presentations	Set Design Presentations	
Wed 11/3	Set Design Presentations	Set Design Presentations	
Fri 11/5	Playwriting Intro		Play Viewing Analysis #2
<b>Week 12</b>	<u>Playwriting Unit</u>		
Mon 11/8	Playwriting		
Wed 11/10	Playwriting		
Fri 11/12	Playwriting		
<b>Week 13</b>			
Mon 11/15	Playwriting Sharing	Playwriting Sharing	
Wed 11/17	Final Group Project begins		
Fri 11/19	Final Group Project		
<b>Week 14</b>			
Mon 11/22	Final Group Project		
Wed-Fri 11/24-26	Thanksgiving-No classes		
<b>Week 15</b>			
Mon 11/29	Final Group Project		
Wed 12/1	Final Group Project	(Last day of classes)	Self-Assessment due
Fri 12/3	Final Exam Period 10:15-12:15	Present Final Group Project	