

Intro to the Theatre

THEA 1310-Z01

Spring Semester 2022

Class Meeting time: MWF 10-10:50am

Class Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84539698558>

Instructor: Eva Gil

Office: Fine Arts Building, 203B

Email: 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.
- 5.

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

(plays will be on Blackboard)

Fences and *Ma Rainey's Blackbottom* will need to be rented on streaming platforms. If on Alpine campus you can watch the library go to desk and ask for the DVD Reserve for this class.

Additional assigned readings, viewings, etc will be made available via Blackboard. Students must have daily access to zoom, Blackboard and Sul Ross email. Your mic needs to work and you need to be in a setting that is free of distractions. 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 the start of class on the date due. Unless otherwise noted. Late assignments from the first half of semester are accepted up until mid-terms. For the second half of semester late work is due by last class day. 10 pts a week will be deducted for lateness after the due date. Presentations are due on date listed and cannot be done late, 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, to assess comprehension of the plays we are studying. They are only given at the beginning of class on Blackboard, so be on time.

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 Project

You will do a project where you create a piece of theatre. You will present it to the class during our Final Exam Period.

Play Viewing Analysis #1

You will watch 2 plays this semester (*Fences* and *Ma Rainey's Blackbottom*) and analyze them.

Play Viewing Analysis #2

If you are on campus, you will analyze the Theatre Program's production of *The Cake*. Tickets are free and the show runs March 25-April 10 in the Studio Theatre in the Fine Arts Bldg. If you are not local you will be assigned another play to watch and analyze.

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 4/29 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 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 Spring Semester dates:

1/10 Start of Spring Semester classes

1/13 Last day to register/change classes

1/17 MLK Jr. Day, no classes

1/26 Last day to drop 16 wk class without being on Academic Record

3/7-3/11 Spring Break, no classes

3/14 Mid-term

3/28 Last day to withdraw from a 16 wk class.

4/15 Good Friday, no classes

4/27 Last Day of classes

4/28 Dead Day

4/29- 5/4 Final Exam Period

5/6 Grades due for Graduating Seniors

5/6 Commencement at 5:30pm

5/9 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 App 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. 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. 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.

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. 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), 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. 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

Blackboard Help Desk 24/7:

Phone: 888-837-6055. Email: 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. If an accommodation is needed, students must present their accommodation letter, obtained from Accessibility Services, as soon as possible. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received. Accessibility Services is in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. You can make an appointment by calling Mary Schwartze Grisham at 432 837-8203.

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."

*Please see Student Academic Regulations for additional SRSU policies:

<https://www.sulross.edu/catalog/undergraduate-academic-regulations-2/>

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 1/10	Syllabus		
Wed 1/12	Origins/Elements		
Fri 1/14	Roles in Theatre		
Week 2			
Mon 1/17	No classes: MLK Jr. Day		
Wed 1/19	Roles in Theatre		
Fri 1/21	Roles in Theatre		
Week 3			
Mon 1/24	Approaching a script		
Wed 1/26	Script Analysis		
Fri 1/28	Script Analysis for Actors		
Week 4	Acting Unit		
Mon 1/31	A/B scenes		
Wed 2/2	A/B scenes		
Fri 2/4	Improv		
Week 5			
Mon 2/7	<i>Proof</i> Discussion Acting Analysis	Quiz on <i>Proof</i>	
Wed 2/9	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Fri 2/11	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Week 6			
Mon 2/14	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Wed 2/16	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		
Fri 2/18	Rehearse <i>Proof</i> Scenes		Play Analysis #1
Week 7			
Mon 2/21	Perform scenes		
Wed 2/23	Perform scenes		
Fri 2/25	Costume Design Intro		

Week 8	<u>Costume Design Unit</u>		
Mon 2/28	Discuss <i>Laughs in Spanish</i>	Quiz <i>Laughs in Spanish</i>	
Wed 3/2	Costume Design Project		
Fri 3/4	Costume Design Project		
Week 9	3/7-3/11 Spring Break		
Week 10	(Mid-term)		
Mon 3/14	Costume Design Presentation		
Wed 3/16	Costume Design Presentation		
Fri 3/18	Set Design Intro		Late work due
Week 11	<u>Set Design Unit</u>		
Mon 3/21	Discuss <i>Skeleton Crew</i>	Quiz <i>Skeleton Crew</i>	
Wed 3/23	Set Design Project		
Fri 3/25	Set Design Project		
	* <i>The Cake</i> runs 4/25-4/10		
Week 12			
Mon 3/28	Set Design Presentations		
Wed 3/30	Set Design Presentations		
Fri 4/1	Playwriting Intro		
Week 13	<u>Playwriting Unit</u>		
Mon 4/4	Playwriting Project		
Wed 4/6	Playwriting Project		
Fri 4/8	Playwriting Project		
Week 14			
Mon 4/11	Play Reading Presentations		
Wed 4/13	Play Reading Presentations		
Fri 4/15	No classes: Good Friday		Play Viewing #2 due
Week 15			
Mon 4/18	Final Project		
Wed 4/20	Final Project		
Fri 4/22	Final Project		

Week 16			
Mon 4/25	Final Project		
Wed 4/27	Last Class Day-Final Project		Self-Assessment due Late work post- midterm due
Fri 4/29	Final Project Presentations. Final Exam Period: 10:15am-12:15pm		