

**THEA 1310:001 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**(Subject to change at any time at Instructor's discretion)**

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Fall 2022**

**Class Meets: MWF 1-1:50**

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:** An introduction to dramatic texts and dramatic principles, script analysis, and theatrical styles. This course will also prepare students to become knowledgeable audience members with an appreciation for the significance that theatre productions can provide in a given cultural context.

This course offers students an opportunity to collaborate with their classmates as actors, directors, and designers. Students will work together to rehearse, design and perform scenes from culturally significant plays. This course is intended to be an introduction to theatre. No prior theatre experience is required.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Zoot Suit + other plays* by Luis Valdez. Arte Publico Press, 1992 paperback.



There will also be additional reading materials assigned in the form of handouts/scripts that contain relevant content covered in class lectures and part of exams. Students will be responsible for this information.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** All assignments must be submitted in person or by email submission before class begins on the due date. I will not accept late work without you speaking to me about a circumstance.

PROJECT #1: Writing a short scene.

PROJECT #2: Research power point project.

MIDTERM EXAM To be on *Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez.

PROJECT #3 Go see a live play here at SRSU Studio Theatre and write a critique.

Project #4 Research, power point and presentations

FINAL EXAM OR PROJECT To be determined

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

1. A working SRSU e-mail account (yourname@sulross.edu) No other e-mail account is acceptable. Check daily, especially before class.
2. A working blackboard account.
3. A 2" notebook binder with pockets to keep all handouts/scripts and notebook paper. I highly recommend that all students take good notes each class period.
4. Other supplies as needed for final exam project - TBA
5. Outside research and regular use of the library.
6. All assignments must be typewritten **using MLA format**; in 12-point type. USE Times New Roman or Ariel font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and free of errors. PLEASE PROOF YOUR WORK. You will be graded on both the content and your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing. If needed, I encourage you to visit the Writing Center before turning in your papers.

**PLEASE NOTE: SOME OF THE REQUIRED READINGS, VIDEOS, AND PLAYS MAY CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE AND/OR DIFFICULT THEMES.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- \*Have a basic understanding of the origins, progression, genres, and the development of theatre;
- \*Discern the basic responsibilities and roles of theatre professionals;
- \*Effectively analyze the basic elements of theatrical design;
- \*Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works;
- \*Use your creative skills to work on design projects;
- \*Analyze the role that theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:** Attendance is necessary! Attendance will be taken each scheduled class period in accordance with University and Departmental Policy and will count as part of the daily work grade. In accordance with the student handbook, after 9 hours of absences, the student will be dropped from the course with an “F”. If a student is tardy and misses the roll call, they will be charged with one absence. It is up to your professors’ discretion whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

**CELL PHONES, texting and engaging in activities unrelated to this class are all strictly prohibited during class time.** This means, NO electronic devices are allowed in the class. You must take hand-written notes during class.

**GRADING:** Assignments are valued as follows: The assignments below are outlined. Please note that attendance and class participation is also part of this grading system.

<u>GRADING SYSTEM</u>		<u>LETTER GRADE</u>
Class Participation/Attendance	100 pts	
Midterm Exam	100 pts	A = 895-1000
Final Project	200 pts	B = 795-894
Project #1	150 pts	C = 695-794
Project #2	150 pts	D = 595-694
Project #3	150 pts	F = Less than 595
Project #4	<u>150 pts</u>	
<b>Total Possible Points:</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>	

**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.

**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, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.

Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

### **SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES:**

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 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](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, <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

### **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.

### **STUDENT SERVICES:**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Visit: <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

A semester course calendar will be available to students and will be discussed in class the first day. This will also be posted on blackboard.