

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

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

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2023

Class Meets: MWF 10-10:50 Lawrence Hall 309

Carolyn Barrientes, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Theatre

Office: FAB 203

Email: Carolyn.barrientes@sulross.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: 432-837-8989

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 TEXTS: No textbook is required for this class. All readings will be provided for you and posted to Blackboard.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) A working e-mail account. You are required to check your Sul Ross email account daily.
- 2) A working Blackboard account.
- 3) Access to Digital Theatre + (use the SRSU Library Database) THEA 1310 -001 Introduction to Theatre – more information to come
- 4) A device used for viewing plays– preferably a computer or tablet.

A 2” notebook binder with pockets to keep all handouts and notebook paper. I highly recommend that all students take good notes each class period. In addition, purchase 2- 1” binders for your 2 playscripts that you will be provided for this class.

Other supplies as needed for final exam project - TBA

Outside research and regular use of the library.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES: The graduating student will:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the various theatrical genres, styles, and works made throughout theatre history;
- 2) demonstrate the ability to analyze scripts;
- 3) demonstrate the ability to analyze all technical aspects of a theatrical production;
- 4) describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event;
- 5) name the basic responsibilities and roles of the theatre collaborators such as playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production;
- 6) have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre and be able to apply them to productions;
- 7) describe the uniqueness of the theatre art;
- 8) demonstrate an understanding of the elements necessary to bring about a unified production;
- 9) identify a variety of theatre spaces; and
- 10) list and describe the names and works associated with key figures (playwrights, directors, designers, performers) in the theatre.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOs)

Among other topics, students will:

- Articulate a working vocabulary of theatre terminology
- Evaluate a theatre performance for its formal qualities
- Demonstrate beginner knowledge of script analysis, including given circumstances, idea, character, plot, rhythm, language, and spectacle.
- Articulate the jobs of different types of theatre professionals
- Analyze the role that theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

MARKETABLE SKILLS – (BFA in Theatre)

1. Students will acquire strong oral and written communication skills. 2. Students will acquire strong analytical skills. 3. Students will acquire strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

FORMAT OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments must be typewritten using MLA format; in 12-point type. 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 of 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.

NOTE: Several of the required readings and viewings in this course contain profanity, violence, nudity, and mature themes. There are some recordings that contain flashing lights. If this poses a risk to you, please contact the instructor.

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 (20%)	Writing a response paper
PROJECT #2 (20%)	Research Power point presentation
MIDTERM EXAM (20%)	Material content TBD
PROJECT #3 (20%)	Go see a live play here at SRSU Marshall Auditorium and write a critique.
FINAL EXAM (20%)	Group project TBD

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

Attendance and 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.

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. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, 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 mschwartz@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

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

Email: 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. 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).

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 Will be provided to students the first week and posted on Blackboard.