

**THEA 1310:001 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE, CRN 11355**

**COURSE SYLLABUS, Fall 2023 (Subject to change at any time at Instructor's discretion)**

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Class Meets: MWF 10-10:50**

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Assistant Professor of Theatre, Technical Design

Office Hours: TBA and/or by appointment

Office: FAB 203C or FAB 103 (Costume Shop)

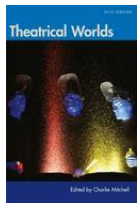
Office Phone: 432-837-8989

**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:** *Theatrical Worlds* (Beta Version), Edited by Charlie Mitchell, University Press of Florida. Other copies of readings will be provided for you and posted to Blackboard.



**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) A working SRSU e-mail account. You are required to check your Sul Ross email account daily, especially before class; A working SRSU 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.
- 5) 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.

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

### **Marketable Skills (BFA in Theatre)**

Students will acquire strong oral and written communication skills; strong analytical skills; 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 SRSU Writing Center before turning in your papers.

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:** 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 or valid excuse. **NOTE:** Several of the required readings and viewings in this course contain profanity, violence, nudity, and mature themes.

Assignments are due on the date given on the course outline. Here is what I will look for when grading, in order of priority: 1) Did you complete the entire assignment? 2) Did your work show signs of improvement from start to finish? 3) Did you follow instructions as well as you could? 4) How "good" is your work compared to: your other work in class, others' work in this class.

PROJECT #1 (25%)	TBD
MIDTERM EXAM (25%)	Material content TBD
PROJECT #2 (25%)	Go see a live play here at SRSU and write a critique.
FINAL EXAM (25%)	Small 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 unless instructed to use for an assignment in class. You must take hand-written notes during class.

**ADA**

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

**Counseling**

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

## 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 Lobold 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 by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](http://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

## Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as 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. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

## 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.

**COURSE CALENDAR:** A semester course calendar of activities/assignments/exams will be available to students and will be discussed in class the first day. This will also be posted on blackboard.