

**Intro to Theatre 1310.001. 21257 MWF 10:00 304**

**SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

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*\*AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS OR BY APPOINTMENT ONLY*

**Required Text:**

1. **Readings:** From the course textbook: *The Essential Theatre*, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed., by Oscar G. Brockett with Robert J. Ball; from various handouts, and as assigned.
2. **You will need to obtain a copy of *Hand to God* by Robert Askins**

**Course Requirements:**

3. **Play Attendance: (mandatory)** SRSU Mainstage productions of *Hand to God*
4. **Written response:** Reading and responding to the Script *Hand to God*
5. **Written responses** (2-3 pgs. Typewritten): SRSU Mainstage productions of *Hand to God*
6. **Three tests** over material covered in class and from the textbook, **or as assigned.**
7. **Midterm Exam** covering material in reading assignments from the textbook during the first half of the course.
8. **Final Exam** covering material in reading assignments from the textbook during the last half of the course.

**Course Overview:**

A survey of the elements of theatre and how they were formed. What makes theatre? Where has it come from and what is the future?

**Course Objectives:**

This course is a historical survey of the development of dramatic art, and an introduction to contemporary theatre practice. You will be acquainted with the basic aims and historical background of theatre as an art form as well as the functions and duties of the major players in creating a theatrical production.

You should leave with a basic understanding, etiquette, and appreciation—based on readings, discussions, and exercises—for the process of dramatic production and performance.

You will be asked to think critically about the relevance of Theatre as an art, and how it is relevant socially and historically.

You will be asked to respond analytically to productions you will see as they relate to society, history, and theatre as an art form.

**Basic Philosophy**

It is my responsibility and desire to help you learn and to help you enjoy your learning experience. I will go to great lengths to assist you, as long as you give me your best effort. If something does not make sense, ask questions. The best information in the world on any topic is useless if it is not communicated clearly and digested thoroughly and practically. I wish to make this an exciting experience for you and I hope you contribute all you can so that this WILL happen. If you need to see me, I am available by phone, e-mail or appointment.

**Grading:**

### Breakdown:

Participation and attendance	50 points
Attendance of Productions	50 points
Test #1	100 points
Test #2	100 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Test #4	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Reading and response of <i>Glass Menagerie</i>	100 points
Written Production Response #1	100 points
Written Production Response #2	<u>100 points</u>
	900 total points

These 900 points will translate into the following grades:

**A=810 or above, B=720-809, C=630-719, D=540-629, F=0-539**

### Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is required. Class participation is essential to this course--as well as your grade. Those who do not attend regularly and promptly will not succeed. Because emergencies occur, your first 3 unexcused absences will not affect your final grade. Each subsequent absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one-third of a letter grade (approx. 30 points). Absences may be counted as excused **only** under the following conditions and with proper documentation:

1. **University approved/sponsored athletic, forensic, and similar trips (arranged IN ADVANCE through a memo from the faculty sponsor).**
2. **Illness that results in a doctor's visit—or the University Clinic (verified by a doctor's note or copy of the bill showing the date).**
3. **Death in the family or other catastrophe (verified with appropriate documentation)**

Participation in class discussions is imperative. As in any discussion, willingness to participate is the key to understanding and accepting different points of view, criticism, and basic understanding of the relevant material.

### Classroom Work:

Classes will be composed of lectures, presentations, evaluation of projects, It is your responsibility to read the class assignments for the day.

### Class Projects:

#### Assignments

Assignments are due on dates designated by the instructor. Only in extreme cases will late work be accepted and on such occasions letter grades may be deducted accordingly. Individual students must take the initiative to make arrangements for makeup assignments and it is the sole discretion of the instructor as to whether or not such leeway will be granted.

### SYLLABUS/COURSE CONTENT:

The information in the syllabus, other than grade and absence policies, may be subject to change as to meet the needs of this particular class with reasonable advance notice. Course content, including lectures, are copyrighted material and students may not sell notes taken during the conduct of the course.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

#### LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

In the interest of fairness to all students, everyone shall have equal time to prepare for assignments. Projects are usually assigned several weeks before due. Students should plan their research and use time wisely to complete timely assignments. All assignments are considered late if they are not turned in on the day when due in the appropriately specified format. The department will not print any project for you.

Accepting late assignments is a courtesy. You are studying a subject in the entertainment industry, one built on meeting deadlines. That being said if you do not have your assignment on the day it is due you have until the end of the business day to turn it into the instructor's mail box in the the FAB Office. If you wait to turn it in on the next day you will receive 80% credit; if you wait for the next class day you will receive 50%. You are advised to hand in assignments, since the final grade is based on total points earned. Few points are more valuable than no points at all. All graded activities including exams must be performed on dates assigned unless there is official medical, legal or related documentation that indicates the student was incapacitated.

#### **SPECIAL COURSE NOTES:**

Some subject matter discussed in the course may be found offensive. Please note that all material covered is presented as a scholarly investigation for analysis and discussion. Should a film be presented to the class, please note that it does not reflect the views of the Instructor, Department or SRSU. Students will be provided with fair warning of the aforementioned.

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT AND ETHICS:**

It is expected that any work done for this class is originally done by the student and is for this class. Any form of plagiarism is subject to strong disciplinary action and can lead to dismissal. All students as part of their obligation to the University assume the responsibility to exhibit in their academic performance the qualities of honesty and integrity. All forms of student dishonesty, which may include but not be limited to; cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action. Students are responsible for all material, in the syllabus, notes, handouts, announcements and other information given in class, even if they are not in attendance. Do not expect the instructor to give an individualized lecture if you miss class. Further, you are responsible for getting to class on time, and for being prepared. Please give to others the courtesy of listening attentively while they are speaking.

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/INTEGRITY:**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. <https://library.sulross.edu/research-basics/about-plagiarism/>

#### **ACADEMIC RIGOR:**

Academic rigor means a consistent expectation of excellence and aspiration to significant achievement. It should pervade the entire atmosphere of the University--teaching and learning, curriculum, evaluation of students and faculty, outreach, admissions, advising, and student life.

#### **TAPING OF CLASSROOM LECTURES:**

1. Faculty members are, by law, afforded copyright protection in their classroom lectures and, therefore, may limit the circumstances under which students may tape (both audio & video) classes, as well as photograph or use materials outside of the classroom.
2. Each faculty member shall inform his or her student within the first week of class as to his or her policy with regard to taping. Failure to do so will accord students the right to tape lectures.
3. Students with disabilities that render them unable to take adequate lecture notes are entitled to reasonable accommodation.
4. **Note Well: There is to be no audio and video recording of this class.**

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz-Grisham, M. Ed., LPC., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) .

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND MANDATORY REPORTING**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as Faculty. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Student Counseling Services 432.837.8203; Ferguson Hall Room 112

. Information on campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available here: <https://www.sulross.edu/sexual-misconduct-resources>

#### **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. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Visit: <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>

#### **COURSE CALENDAR *Updates will be discussed in class***

