

Sul Ross State University
THEA 1310-01 Introduction to the Theatre
Fall 2025

FALL 2025
Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00 am – 10:50 am
FAB 105

Office hours Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
All other times by appointment
Office: FAB 106

Marjorie Scott, M.F.A.
Assoc. Prof. of Cinematic Arts and Theatre
Chair, Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts
p. 432-837-8039
m. 432-294-1191
mscott3@sulross.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to ignite your interest in theatre. Through the readings, viewings, discussions, and exercises in this course, you will hopefully develop an appreciation and understanding of live theatre including its origins, formal elements, and genres throughout history.

The readings and viewings for this course will introduce you to dramatic texts, provide you with fundamental knowledge of dramatic principles and theatrical styles, and address a range of contemporary social issues.

This course satisfies the creative arts core requirement.

Required Texts

All readings provided by the instructor. It is your responsibility to keep track of copies of the plays and other readings required for this class. Bring your readings to class.

Materials Required:

- 1) A working Sul Ross 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)
- 4) A device used for viewing – preferably a computer or tablet. It's difficult to view recorded plays on a phone because the screen is so small. Do the best you can to access a computer or tablet.

Student Learning Outcomes *The graduating student will:*

SLO 1: The student 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, to work creatively and collaboratively 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.

Course Learning Objectives

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.
- Articulate the jobs of different types of theatre professionals
- Analyze the role live theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

Marketable Skills (B.F.A. 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.

Through a combination of coursework and laboratory work, i.e., theatrical productions, our students will gain the opportunity to explore and develop all three program marketable skills. Specifically, students will learn how to analyze scripts, and communicate their findings via written assignments. They will also be encouraged to support their analysis orally through classroom discussion and their Comprehensive Oral Exam at the end of the senior year. Theatrical productions will provide the opportunity for actors and technicians to problem solve and work collaboratively developing strong teamwork skills.

Core Assessments

This course satisfies the creative arts component of the core curriculum. The core skill assessed this term in all creative arts core courses is **social responsibility**. You will be assessed on the following skills relating to social responsibility:

- 1) Show ability to communicate and interact with civility.
- 2) Demonstrate intercultural knowledge and competence.

- 3) Identify cultural diversity and interpersonal challenges
- 4) Recognize the potential for discrimination and prejudice.
- 5) Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Requirements

Written Responses: Throughout the term, you will view staged productions and write critical analysis papers in response to these viewings. Your responses will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) Clarity of response. Are responses clear and well-organized?
- 2) Thoroughness of response. Does the response answer the question completely?
- 3) Effective use of language. Did you use correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and vocabulary?
- 4) Quality and relevance of supporting materials (i.e., examples or citations, if appropriate). Are the examples cited relevant to the question? If used, are citations credible and relevant to the question?

Readings and Viewings: Readings will be provided by the instructor. It is your responsibility to keep track of these readings and bring them to class. You will also view several productions (recordings of live plays) and short videos on theatre topics we'll be discussing throughout the term. You will need to access Digital Theatre+ which is part of the SRSU Library Database. Do your best to keep up with these readings and viewings. All readings and viewings will be available on Blackboard.

Final Project: For the final in this course, you will be partnered or grouped with classmates to present a scene provided by the instructor. Scenes must be rehearsed and blocked. You must be "off-book" for the final, which means your lines must be memorized. You will have a supplemental character analysis due before the day of the final. Format of and instructions for character analysis will be provided by the instructor.

CONTENT WARNING: Several of the required readings and viewings in this course contain profanity, violence, and mature themes.

Grading

Assignments are valued as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1) Storytelling composition | 15% |
| 2) <i>All My Sons</i> paper | 15% |
| 3) <i>True West</i> paper | 15% |

4) <i>Antigone</i> paper	15%
5) Acting/blocking exercises	20%
6) Final Scene	20%

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.

ADA Statement

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 Schwartz 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, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Library

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 LobolD 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).

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 based on 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

(Please note: this calendar is subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Date	In Class Activity	Reading/Assignment Due
WEEK 1		
Mon 8/25	Review syllabus and course expectations. Story time!	
Wed 8/27	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share your experiences with live theatre. 2. What is theatre? How do you define it? 3. Does live theatre serve a function in modern society? Why or why not? Explain. Storytelling	
Fri 8/29	Storytelling continued	
WEEK 2		
Mon 9/1	Labor Day – No class meeting	N/A
Wed 9/3	Storytelling cont'd Composition rehearsal	
Fri 9/5	Storytelling cont'd Composition presentations in class	
WEEK 3		
Mon 9/8	Discuss Chapter 1 and 2 of the Creative Spirit	Reading due: Chapter 1 and 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i>

		Viewing due: Spotlight On: The Playwright https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-playwright
Wed 9/10	Discuss Chapter 1 and 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> (continued)	
Fri 9/12	Discuss Chapter 1 and 2 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> (continued)	Viewing due Spotlight On: The Actor and Spotlight On: The Director https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-actor https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-director
WEEK 4		
Mon, 9/15	View <i>Antigone</i> (Actors of Dionysus) on Digital Theatre+ in class.	Viewing due: Unlocking Greek Theatre https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/unlocking-greek-theatre
Wed, 9/17	Continue viewing <i>Antigone</i> in class on Digital Theatre+	
Fri 9/19	Continue viewing <i>Antigone</i> in class on Digital Theatre+	
WEEK 5		
Mon, 9/22	Discuss <i>Antigone</i>	Reading due: Chapter 6 of <i>The Creative Spirit</i> : The Designers (under Readings tab on Blackboard) Viewing due Spotlight On: The Costume Designer https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-costume-designer Viewing due: Spotlight On: The Set Designer https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-set-designer

Wed, 9/24	Discuss design elements in the theatre.	Viewing due: Spotlight On: The Lighting Designer (cont'd on next page) https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-lighting-designer Viewing due: Spotlight On: The Sound Designer https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.wmlrsu.idm.oclc.org/content/workshops/spotlight-on-the-sound-designer
Fri 9/26	TBD	
WEEK 6		
Mon 9/29	Acting exercises	
Wed 10/1	Acting exercises (continued)	
Fri 10/3	TBD	Written response due: <i>Antigone</i> response paper due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm.
WEEK 7		
Mon 10/6	Acting exercises (continued)	
Wed 10/8	Acting exercises (continued)	
Fri 10/10	Acting exercises (continued)	
WEEK 8		
Mon 10/13	Read <i>True West</i> in class	
Wed 10/15	Read <i>True West</i> in class	
Fri 10/17	Read <i>True West</i> in class	
WEEK 8		
Mon 10/20	Read <i>True West</i> in class	
Wed 10/22	Discuss <i>True West</i>	
Fri 10/24	Discuss <i>True West</i>	
WEEK 9		
Mon 10/27	Discuss blocking and areas of the stage	Assignment given: Final scenes and partners assigned in class and posted on Blackboard.

Wed 10/29	Blocking and stage picture	
Fri 10/31	Blocking and stage picture	
WEEK 10		
Mon 11/3	Watch <i>All My Sons</i>	
Wed 11/5	Watch <i>All My Sons</i>	
Fri 11/7	Watch <i>All My Sons</i>	True West analysis paper due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm. The questions in this assignment will focus on the production of <i>True West</i> at SRSU. You are required to attend <u>at least one</u> performance of this production.
WEEK 11		
Mon 11/10	Watch <i>All My Sons</i>	
Wed 11/12	TBD	
Fri 11/14	Discuss <i>All My Sons</i>	
WEEK 12		
Mon 11/17	Rehearse final scenes	
Wed 11/19	Rehearse final scenes	
Fri 11/21	Rehearse final scenes	All My Sons analysis paper due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm. The questions in this assignment will focus on the production of <i>All My Sons</i> we view in class.
WEEK 13		
Mon 11/24	No class meeting	N/A
Wed 11/26	No class meeting	N/A
Fri 11/28	No class meeting	N/A
WEEK 14		
Mon 12/1	Acting exercises	Due in class: Character analysis and floor plan for final scene
Wed 12/3	Acting exercises (cont'd)	
Fri 12/5	Final Exam: Scene presentations from 10:15 am – 12:15 pm	