

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE



**THE 1310.01W INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014
ONLINE**

Instructor: Kelly D. Switzer, MFA

Office Location: PAC 130

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10-11am, Tuesday and Thursday 11-12am, and by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5319

University Email Address: Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required: *The Theatre Experience* by Edwin Wilson, 12th Edition (one copy is on reserve in the Gee Library)

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Other Readings provided through eCollege, see Course Outline/Calendar for specifics.

Course Description: A survey of the fields of theatre activity designed to provide introductory knowledge of all phases of drama, literature, performance, theatre plants and equipment, and production procedures.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn fundamental principles, vocabulary, or theories of Western theatre.
2. Develop creative capacities through exercises.
3. Critically apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving and decision making).
4. Communicate knowledge gained through research via an MLA formatted, thoroughly cited research paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Exercises and Critical Thinking work are in-class, group assignments that cannot be made up. You are required to see two plays this semester; further instructions will be given in Lecture and on eCollege. There is one final research paper with an outline, bibliography, and rough draft leading up to it—further instructions will be given in class and on eCollege. You have one quiz over *The Glass Menagerie* and six tests. The final exam is cumulative; students with a 90% test average are exempt from the final exam.

All assignments should be in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins and a small header at the top with your name, assignment name, course, and date.

Grading

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| Self-Introduction | | 50 pts |
| Playwriting Exercise | | 50 pts |
| Design Exercise | | 50 pts |
| Critical Thinking Work 1-5 | 20 pts each x 5= | 100 pts |
| Play Attendance | 200 pts each x 2= | 400 pts |
| Research Paper | | |
| Outline and bibliography | | 50 pts |
| Rough draft | | 50 pts |
| Final draft | | 100 pts |
| <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Quiz | | 50 pts |
| Audience Test | | 100 pts |
| Playwright Test | | 100 pts |
| Directing Test | | 100 pts |
| Design Test | | 100 pts |
| Acting Test | | 100 pts |
| Backstage Test | | 100 pts |
| Final Exam | | 200 pts |
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| Total | | 1700 pts |

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| Exceptional work will warrant an | A=90% (1530 pts +) |
| Above average work will warrant a | B=80% (1360-1529 pts) |
| Average work will warrant a | C=70% (1190-1359 pts) |
| Below average work will warrant a | D=60% (1020-1189 pts) |
| Unacceptable work will warrant a | F=59% or less (under 1019 pts) |

Extra Credit

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class and on eCollege.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to check their myLeo accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will also need to access eCollege regularly for readings and assignment instructions. Lectures will be provided in video format and will require a video program to view, readings will be provided as PDFs.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will utilize eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@online.tamuc.org.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus. I try to answer all emails in a timely manner, it is your most efficient method of contact.

All emails to the instructor should begin with a salutation, clearly and politely state your inquiry, and close with a signature that includes the specific class you are enrolled in.

If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support. Their information is:

eCollege Student Technical Support (QM 6.6, 7.1) Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

- Observe all deadlines. It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading, lectures, and assignments.
- Pace yourself. Time management skills are necessary for an online course.
- Don't procrastinate. A deadline is the last day on which you can turn in an assignment—I encourage you to turn things in early. As you can see, sometimes 3 or 4 assignments might have the same due date. Don't wait until that day to try and complete them all. It won't be pretty.
- Ask questions. You can ask me directly via email or phone, or post questions in the discussion forums. I am here for you.

University Specific Procedures:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Gee Library

Room 132

Fax (903) 468-8148

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: "Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer

serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.”

The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here:
<http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honest, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

- (1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.
- (3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
- (4) Loss of privileges.
 - a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
 - b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
 - c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
 - d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
 - e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
- (5) Admonition and warning.
- (6) Notification of parents.
- (7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

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| COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR |
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| Jan 13-17 Orientation | Lecture: Course Orientation, review of course packet Complete your Self- Introduction due by Jan 20 at 10:00pm Complete the Mock Test |
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| Jan 20-31 Audience | Lecture: Chapter 1, <i>Experiencing Theatre: Past and Present</i> p. 3-21 Lecture: Chapter 2, <i>The Audience: Its Role and Imagination</i> p. 27-43 Review “A ‘Typical’ Production Process” and “Why Theatre Matters” under “Readings” Watch the “25 th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee” video Critical Thinking Work #1 due by January 30 at 10:00pm Choose top 3 paper topic choices and email Ms. Switzer by January 31 AUDIENCE TEST due by January 31 at 10:00pm |
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| Feb 3-14 Playwright | Lecture: Chapter 7, <i>Creating the World of the Play</i> p. 155-169 Lecture: Tennessee Williams, <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> , and Play Analysis Lecture: Final paper and MLA format |
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Read your copy of *The Glass Menagerie* by the beginning of this unit
Read "Script Change" under "Readings"
Watch the "Wounded Genius" and "Inside *The Glass Menagerie*" videos

The Glass Menagerie Quiz due by February 7 at 10:00pm
Playwriting Exercise due by February 13 at 10:00pm
Critical Thinking Work #2 due by February 13 at 10:00pm
PLAYWRIGHT TEST due by February 14 at 10:00pm

Feb 17-28
Directing

Lecture: Chapter 6, *The Director and Producer* p. 124-149

Watch "Amanda Palmer's TED Talk" video

Critical Thinking Work #3 due by February 27 at 10:00pm
DIRECTING TEST due by February 28 at 10:00pm

Mar 3-Apr 4
Design

Lecture: Chapter 4, *The Audience Views the Stage* p. 67-87

Lecture: Chapter 10, *Scenic Design* p. 229-251

Lecture: Chapter 11, *Stage Costumes* p. 253-275

Lecture: Chapter 12, *Lighting and Sound*

Read "Scrim Solutions" under "Readings"
Watch the "The Critic Costume Design" video
Watch the "York Mystery Cycle 2010" video
Watch the "Stage Lighting and Managing Lighting Design" video

Bibliography and Outline due by Mar 7 at 10:00pm
Critical Thinking Work #4 due by Apr 3 at 10:00pm
Design Exercise due by Apr 3 at 10:00pm
DESIGN TEST due by Apr 4 at 10:00pm

Mar 10-14

Spring Break

Apr 7-11
Acting

Lecture: Chapter 5, *Acting: Offstage and in the Past*

Read "The Art of Silence" under "Readings"
Watch the "Acting Through Life" and "Kabuki" videos
Watch the "Uta Hagen" and "Dennis Hopper" videos

Rough Draft due by Apr 10 at 10:00pm
ACTING TEST due by Apr 11 at 10:00pm

Apr 14-25
Backstage

Lecture: Backstage During a Performance

Watch multiple videos, you will be directed to them during the lecture

Final Paper due by Apr 22 at 10:00pm
Critical Thinking Work #5 due by April 24 at 10:00pm
BACKSTAGE TEST due by April 25 at 10:00pm

Apr 28-May 2
Final Review

Review for Final
Play Analysis Forms and Extra Credit due by May 2 at 10:00pm

Final ExamTBA; instructions will be provided later in the semester. updated: 1/7/2014