

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

**THE 1310.001 INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2014
Location: PAC 100 MWF 9:00-9:50am**

Instructor: Kelly D. Switzer, MFA

Office Location: PAC 130

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-noon, every other Friday 11am-noon, 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
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Other Readings provided in class or 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. Learning to critically apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving and decisions).

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, one of which must be the University Playhouse Production of *Big Friendly Giant* (October 7-12). You have the option of seeing *Cthulhu: A Puppet Play* (Nov 18-23), but you ****must**** reserve tickets in advance as seating is limited and this show will sell out. For reservations, call 903-886-5900.
- You have six tests. Tests can ONLY be made up in cases of emergency, you have until the graded test is passed back in class to schedule a makeup test. **The final exam is cumulative; students with a 90% test average are exempt from the final exam.**

Grading

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| Playwriting Exercise | | 50 pts |
| Groundplan Exercise | | 50 pts |
| Acting Exercise | | 50 pts |
| Critical Thinking Group Work 1-5 | 20 pts each x 5= | 100 pts |
| Play Attendance | 200 pts each x 2= | 400 pts |
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| Audience Test | | 100 pts |
| Playwright and <i>TGM</i> 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 | | 1450 pts |

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| Exceptional work will warrant an | A=90% |
| Above average work will warrant a | B=80% |
| Average work will warrant a | C=70% |
| Below average work will warrant a | D=60% |
| Unacceptable work will warrant a | F=59% or less |

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.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be enhanced by using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.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@tamu-commerce.edu.

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

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:

- Please do not be late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and find the nearest open seat.
- Please sit in the first FIVE rows of the theatre so I can see you and you can see me.
- I do not allow makeup work, except tests in cases of emergency. I will expect some documentation of this emergency before allowing a makeup test. You must arrange with me to makeup the test BEFORE I pass the corrected tests back to the class (usually the next class period).
- Bring your book to class each day, I frequently reference it during lecture.

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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| Mon. | Aug. 25 | Course Orientation, review of syllabus |
| Wed. | Aug. 27 | Chapter 1, <i>Experiencing Theatre: Past and Present</i> p. 3-21 Review Handout: A "Typical" Production Process (on eCollege) Read on your own: "Why Theatre Matters" |
| Fri. | Aug. 29 | Chapter 2, <i>The Audience: Its Role and Imagination</i> p. 27-43 <i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> clip |
| Mon. | Sept. 1 | Labor Day holiday |
| Wed. | Sept. 3 | Critical Thinking Group Work 1 |
| Fri. | Sept. 5 | Audience Test |
| Mon. | Sept. 8 | Chapter 7, <i>Creating the World of the Play</i> <i>Rob Handel on Playwriting</i> video |
| Wed. | Sept. 10 | Playwriting Exercise |
| Fri. | Sept. 12 | Play Analysis |
| Mon. | Sept. 15 | <i>Wounded Genius</i> and <i>Inside the Glass Menagerie</i> videos |
| Wed. | Sept. 17 | Discuss <i>TGM</i> and Play Analysis |
| Fri. | Sept. 19 | Critical Thinking Group Work 2 |

- Mon. Sept. 22 **Playwriting and TGM Test**
- Wed. Sept. 24 Chapter 6, *The Director and Producer*
- Fri. Sept. 26 Continue Chapter 6
Amanda Palmer's TED Talk video
"Script Change" article
- Mon. Sept. 29 Guest Speaker: Jim Anderson, director of *BFG*
- Wed. Oct. 1 **Directing Test**
- Fri. Oct. 3 Chapter 4, *The Audience Views the Stage: Theatre Spaces*
- Mon. Oct. 6 Chapter 10, *Scenic Design*
"Scrim Solutions" article
- Wed. Oct. 8 Continue Chapter 10
- Fri. Oct. 10 Backstage Tour of *BFE*
- Mon. Oct. 13 Class Discussion of *BFE* (some questions will be on the test)
- Wed. Oct. 15 Groundplan Exercise in class
- Fri. Oct. 17 Chapter 11, *Stage Costumes*
The Critic Costume Design video
- Mon. Oct. 20 Chapter 12, *Lighting and Sound*
Theatre Lighting Design video
- Wed. Oct. 22 Design Show and Tell
- Fri. Oct. 24 Critical Thinking Group Work 3
- Mon. Oct. 27 Chapter 4, 10, 11, and 12 wrap up
- Wed. Oct. 29 **Design Test**
- Fri. Oct. 31 Chapter 5, *Acting: Offstage and in the Past*
- Mon. Nov. 3 Continue Chapter 5
Uta Hagen and *Dennis Hopper* videos
"The Art of Silence" article
Choose scenes and partners
- Wed. Nov. 5 Rehearse scenes
- Fri. Nov. 7 Present scenes
- Mon. Nov. 10 Present scenes

Wed. Nov. 12 Critical Thinking Group Work 4
Fri. Nov. 14 **Acting Test**
Mon. Nov. 17 Backstage During a Performance
Wed. Nov. 19 Backstage During a Performance
Fri. Nov. 21 Backstage Tour of *Cthulhu*
Mon. Nov. 24 **Backstage Test**
Wed. Nov. 26 TBA
Fri. Nov. 28 Thanksgiving holiday
Mon. Dec. 1 Critical Thinking Group Work 5
Wed. Dec. 3 Semester Wrap Up
Fri. Dec. 5 Review for final exam

Final Exam: TBA

updated:8/19/2014