



**THE 397, 597, Advanced Collaborative Theatre
Summer II, 2015**

Instructor: Jim Tyler Anderson
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

All study materials are available through Gee Library, or will be provided by the instructor.

Course Description:

Advanced Collaborative Theatre is an intensive three week Theatre “boot-camp,” in which students participate in seminars and gain experience in theatrical crafts, including:

- Theatrical collaboration
- Technical Theatre and elements of design
- Acting and improvisation
- Playwriting
- Directing
- Stage management
- Dramaturgy
- Publicity and front of house operations
- Physical and vocal training

Each Student will write two short plays which will be read aloud and discussed with a view to selecting up to eight plays for further development and production.

For each selected play, a student director and a student dramaturg. The directors and dramaturgs will cast the plays, using course participants as actors. Each participant will have at least one acting role.

The ensemble rehearses; designs properties, costumes, lights and sets; creates publicity for print, broadcast and social media, and produces a festival of new plays with proceeds benefitting area food pantries.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
2. Developing creative capacities through collaborative production of plays.
3. Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving and decisions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading

The final grade will be an average grades for Attendance and Participation, Playwriting, Acting and Production duties.

Grading

- A** 90%-100% (exceptional quality work)
- B** 80%-89% (above average quality work)
- C** 70%-79% (average quality work)
- D** 60%-69% (below average quality work)
- F** 0%-59% (fails to meet expectations in quality of work)

Graduate students are expected to meet all requirements of the undergraduate syllabus. Additionally, they will conduct research, and present multi-media-enhanced classroom discussions of theories and styles of directing, design, acting, playwriting and dramaturgy. They will serve as mentors for undergraduate students, and they will write an analytical critique of the collaborative process of the ensemble.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to learn to use manuscript formatting software

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

It is important that instructors and students maintain an open and on-going communication. Please feel free to drop by my office any time during my office hours, contact me to make an appointment, or call my office, or contact me by e-mail. If you are having trouble with any assignment don't hesitate to ask for help. Also, you may seek research assistance at Gee Library:

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement.
Other than water, no food or beverages may be brought into the classrooms or performance spaces.
Silence phones and other devices during class and turn them off during rehearsals and performances.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

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

Gee Library 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week one: Students start the day with physical and vocal training.

Students attend and participate in seminars on playwriting, acting, directing dramaturgy.

Each student will write two short plays.

The plays are read, selected and cast.

Week two: Students start the day with physical and vocal training.

Students attend and participate in seminars on theatrical design and technology; publicity, public relations and advocacy, and front of house management.

Students participate in multiple daily play rehearsals.

Week three: Students start the day with physical and vocal training.

Students work collaboratively to design and construct sets, lights, costumes and properties.

Students receive training in sound and light board operation and back stage communication.

Students participate in polishing rehearsals, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals.

Students perform the new play festival for the public.