



**THE 1310 02W: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE 83321  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015  
ONLINE**

**Instructor:** Joe Reynolds, MFA

**Office Location:** I will not be in my office. Please send an email and I will return reply as soon as possible.

**Office Hours:** I am not in the office but will check my email.

**Office Phone:** I am not in but you can call my cell if you really have an important question. 323-314-9566. But email is preferred.

**University Email Address:** Joe.Reynolds@tamuc.edu

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Textbook(s) required:** *THE THEATRE EXPERIENCE, EDWIN WILSON, and 12th edition.*

Other readings/videos provided through eCollege, see Course Outline/Calendar for specifics. This is available online and on the campus bookstore.

**For extra credit:** See and write a review of a play at the Performing Arts Center on campus.

For more details see section in syllabus "extra credit." There is no other extra credit available.

**Course Description:**

The course is a survey of the fields of theatre activity designed to provide introductory knowledge of all phases of drama, literature, performance, theatre facilities, equipment and production procedures.

**Objective:** The objective of this course is to provide the student with an overview of the fundamentals of theatre through practical experience in the various crafts of theatre.

**Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Identify a basic understanding of theatrical performance as a synthesis of many arts-playwriting, acting, directing, design, music, dance and management.
2. Apply this knowledge to engage in critical and useful participation in theatre as either a thinking member of the audience or as a participant in the art itself.
3. Recognize the benefits to the quality of life by the continued exposure to theatrical arts.

**Attendance:** *This is an online course. Therefore, there is no attendance.* However, the worksheets, tests and exams must be taken on or before the date listed in the syllabus to get full credit. I will not accept late assignments. Please note the "on or before" due dates.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessment**

There are four tests and 4 worksheets to complete. All tests and worksheets must be completed on or before the due date. No late tests or assignments accepted. The final exam is cumulative and will cover all of the material in the course.

## **GRADING**

**4 Worksheets 40%**

**4 Tests 40%**

**1 Final Exam 20%**

**Extra credit - 1 Play Review - 5% extra credit –**

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit of 5 points will be added to your final grade if you see a play on campus produced by the theatre department **and write a review**. Please contact the Box Office to make your reservation today! (903) 886-5900. [playhouseboxoffice@cp.tamuc.edu](mailto:playhouseboxoffice@cp.tamuc.edu)  
Performing Arts Center (PAC) Room 101B Monday-Friday 1-5pm  
Write your review using a word document and submit it through eCollege.

It is important that you write the review immediately after you see the play so the production is fresh in your mind. Please write your review of 450 to 550 words (which is about two pages of double spaced text. The review must be typed, with 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font and double spaced. Don't forget to put your name on it! You will not receive credit unless you follow the instructions and guidelines from the "play review worksheet" in doc sharing.

**GRADING SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

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 Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT:** It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the University or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting.

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

**eCOLLEGE:** You are required to have working access to the course eCollege site, as provided by the University. The syllabus and some materials may be distributed through eCollege.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Contacting the instructor:**

If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, please let me know. Don't be intimidated. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

**If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support.**

**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](mailto: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:**

It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading, tests and assignments.

This is a summer course intensive and you need to manage your time wisely.

Don't procrastinate. The due date or deadline is the last day you can turn in an assignment or take a test.

There are no late tests given.

Ask me questions! Please email me! I want you to finish and do well in this course!

### **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](mailto: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. 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 Honesty, 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/>

## Course Outline and Calendar

### Unit 1: ORIENTATION

Introduction to the Class--read through the entire course syllabus! You have an assignment for this unit due on or before **Wednesday, September 3rd at 6 pm.**

### Unit 2:

- Chapter 1 – Experience Theatre: Past and Present
- Chapter 2 – The Audience: Its Role and Imagination
- Chapter 3 – Background and Expectations of the Audience
- Chapter 4 – The Audience Views the Stage: Theatre Spaces

Read Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Download “LECTURE” – (slides highlighting chapters) in doc sharing.

**Complete Worksheet #1 on or before Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Take Test #1 by Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

### Unit 3: PART TWO: The Performers and The Director

- Chapter 5 – Acting
- Chapter 6 – The Director and the Producer
- PART THREE: Creating the Play: The Playwright
- Chapter 7 – Creating the World of the Play
- Chapter 8 – Dramatic Structure and Dramatic Characters
- Chapter 9 – Tragedy, Comedy, and Tragicomedy

Read Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9

Download “LECTURE” – (slides highlighting chapters) in doc sharing.

**Complete Worksheet #2 by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Take Test #2 by Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**See the play at TAMUC’s Performing Arts Center if you want extra credit.**

**This is an easy way to gain 5 points to your final grade! That could be  
The difference between a C and a B or a B and an A!**

### Unit 4: PART FOUR: The Designers

- Chapter 10 – Scenery
- Chapter 11 – Stage Costumes
- Chapter 12 – Lighting and Sound

Read Chapters 10, 11, and 12

Download “LECTURE” – (slides highlighting chapters) in doc sharing.

**Complete Worksheet #3 by Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Take Test #3 by Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Unit 5: PART FIVE: The Theatre Landscape Today**

Chapter 13 – Musical Theatre

Chapter 14 – Global Theatre Today

Chapter 15 – Contemporary American Theatre

Read Chapters 13, 14, and 15

Download “LECTURE” – (slides highlighting chapters) in doc sharing.

**Complete Worksheet #4 by Wednesday, November 25th at 11 pm.**

**Take Test #4 by Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Unit 6: Final Review and Exam**

Read/Look up terms/study the Review Document in doc sharing

Review previous tests

Take the Final Exam

(The Final Exam is open from **December 14th at 12:01 am until August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm.**

You have two hours to complete the exam.

The computer will time you off after two hours.)

Note: Take or complete assignments “on or **before**” the due date. Please choose the “before” if possible! The due date is the last day you can turn them in so you don’t want to put yourself in a stressful situation trying to complete a test at the last minute! No late tests or assignments accepted.