



**THE 1310: Intro to Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2016
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.
PERFORMING ARTS #100 (Main Theatre)**

Instructor on Record: Jarrod White, BA, Graduate Assistant Teacher
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #108
Office Hours: M/W 11:50-12:50, or by appointment
University Email Address: jwhite54@leomail.tamuc.edu

Supervising Professor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104
Office Hours: M/W/F 10-12 a.m., T/R 10-12 a.m. or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5339
University Email Address: Casey.Watkins@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Experiencing Theatre, Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Irelan
Eurydice, Sarah Ruhl **(PDF)***
Luna, Ramon Esquivel **(PDF)**

***All PDF texts will be provided for you by your instructor**

Required Viewing:

Eurydice

Directed by Rebecca Worley
 Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
 March 1-5 at 8 p.m. and March 6th at 3 p.m.

Luna

Directed by Dr. Carrie Klypchak
 Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
 May 5-7 at 6 p.m. and May 8 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available for a nominal fee from the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900 or by email at playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu.

Course Description:

The purpose of Introduction to Theatre is to familiarize students with the basic elements of plays and productions and to help students develop the analytical skills to think, speak and write critically about the theater.

Course Ethics and Attendance: *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” are valued in this class. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. **A willingness to “give theatre and its many forms a chance” is most appreciated.** It is assumed that students will work cooperatively with one another and all work that is not “original” will be properly credited. See the TAMUC *Student’s Guide Handbook* for more information on plagiarism. This is a serious offense that can result in separation from the university. **EVEN if not specifically noted on instructions or prompts for each assignment, plagiarism policies will be strictly enforced.**

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

- 1) Become a more informed, critical audience member
- 2) Gain a basic understanding of the elements of dramatic structure and of theatrical production
- 3) Learn to evaluate the artistic quality of a script and a performance
- 4) Gain appreciation of how plays reflect the people and cultures that produce them.
- 5) Gain understanding of the relationship of theater to the other arts and humanities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

In-Class Exercises (30 @ 5 points each = 150 pts. total): As stated above, attendance does not constitute participation. We will conduct in-class exercises almost every day. These exercises are used to focus your attention on the material offered in the course and are hands-on, interactive methods to explore the material. You **MUST** be present and you **MUST** participate to receive credit.

Response essays (1 @ 100 pts): Students are required to attend performances of both Playhouse productions (clear your schedules NOW!). Students will submit papers that apply concepts explored in class to contemporary productions. Papers should be approx. 2 pages, typed, 12 pt. Arial font, well-organized (complete sentences, full paragraphs). I *will* consider spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure in the grading. (See prompt and rubric when handed out.)

Grading System and Scale

Attendance	360 points total (40 @ 9 points/day)
In-Class Exercises	150 points total (30 @ 5 points each)
Quizzes	100 points total (5 @ 20 points each)
Performance Response Essay 1	100 points
Group Project	90 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam (Practical)	100 points
TOTAL POINTS	1000 points

A grade of “A” will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments. Attendance at Departmental Productions regardless of average.

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. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. Additionally, I will provide electronic copies of the plays and any supplemental reading through eCollege and/or email.

WRITTEN WORK: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. Don't be a stranger! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. I cannot help you if I don't

know what is going on. The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is **via email**. I check it almost constantly. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

If you will be communicating with me via email, please always write in clear and complete sentences, using proper grammar and punctuation. Also, SIGN YOUR NAME, otherwise, sometimes I don't know who it is from. If you plan on having a job someday that may utilize email, just think of it as practice.

Student Resources:

Department of Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center- USE FOR PAPERS!!!!

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

TAMUC Counseling Center

Student Services Building Room 204

Phone: 903-886-5145

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
--

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy:

You may accumulate three (3) absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an "excused" absence.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP.

Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every two class absences beyond three. (Example: Someone with an "A" average who misses class five times will be in the "A-" range; a seventh absence moves that student down into the "B+" range and so on...) Any more than 9 absences is an automatic failure.

Late Arrivals:

To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less than disciplined/committed student. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. *It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain.* Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. **Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.**

Cell Phones and Laptops:

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, you are welcome to take class notes on a laptop or other electronic device. However, these devices should only be used for taking notes over the current discussions/activities – and you must type very quietly and turn off all sound so as not to disturb other class members. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

Late Work:

I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

Incompletes:

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were **maintaining passing grades at the time of the request** for an incomplete.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:**Academic Dishonesty:**

This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student's Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance

occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

Students with a Disability:

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@tamu-commerce.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

Readings and assignments are due on the days on which they are listed below. There are no “make-ups” for IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE SCHEDULE IF NECESSARY

W Jan 20 Intro to Course and syllabus

F Jan 22 UNIT ONE – “What is Theatre? What is a play?”

Monday, January 25th- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

M Jan 25	UNIT ONE (CONT.) – Elements
W Jan 27	UNIT ONE (CONT.) – Reading a Play
F Jan 29	NO CLASS TETA
M Feb 1	*Casey administer Quiz #1- Aristotle and Play structure* Monday, February 1st- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 70% REFUND
W Feb 3	UNIT ONE (CONT.) *Casey begins Character and Idea* Wednesday, February 3rd - CENSUS DAY LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH REFUND
F Feb 5	UNIT ONE (CONT.) – Character and Idea (cont.)
M Feb 8	UNIT ONE (CONT.) – Realism and Non-Realism Monday, February 8th- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 50% REFUND
W Feb 10	UNIT TWO – Realism and Non-Realism (cont.)
F Feb 12	UNIT TWO (CONT.) – Playwriting
M Feb 15	UNIT TWO (CONT.) – Playwriting (cont.) Monday, February 15th- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 25% REFUND
W Feb 17	UNIT TWO (CONT.) – Writing Process Quiz #2 – Playwriting
F Feb 19	UNIT TWO (CONT.) – Writing Process (cont.)

M Feb 22	UNIT TWO (CONT.) – Devised Theatre
W Feb 24	UNIT FIVE – Audience Etiquette
F Feb 26	UNIT FIVE (CONT.) – Aesthetic Value and Performance Criticism
M Feb 29	Midterm Review
	DoT Production of <i>Eurydice</i> Mar 1-6
W Mar 2	MIDTERM EXAM
F Mar 4	Eurydice Response in-class workday
M Mar 7	UNIT THREE – Design and Scenography
	TURN IN EURYDICE RESPONSE
W Mar 9	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Theatre Spaces
F Mar 11	NO CLASS OAP CLINIC
Mar 14-18	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
M. Mar 21	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Scenic Design
W. Mar 23	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Scenic Design (cont.)
F. Mar 25	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Costume Design
M. Mar 28	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Costume Design (cont.)
W. Mar 30	UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Lighting Design

F. Apr 1 UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Lighting Design (cont.)

Sunday, April 3rd - LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE

M. Apr 4 UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Sound Design

W. Apr 6 UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Sound Design (cont.)

F. Apr 8 UNIT THREE (CONT.) - Collaboration

Quiz #3- Scenography

M. Apr 11 UNIT THREE (CONT.) – Collaboration (cont.)

W Apr 13 UNIT FOUR – The Director

F Apr 15 UNIT FOUR (CONT.) – The Director (cont.)

M Apr 18 UNIT FOUR (CONT.) – The Actor

W April 20 UNIT FOUR (CONT.) – The Actor (cont.)

F April 22 UNIT FOUR (CONT.) – Acting!

M April 25 UNIT FOUR (CONT.) – Acting! (Cont.)

Quiz #4- Acting and Directing

W April 27 UNIT SIX – In-class work day Group Project (cont.)

F April 29 UNIT SIX (CONT.) – In-class work day Group Project (cont.)

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW (NO REFUND)

M May 2 UNIT SIX (CONT.) – Group Project Presentations

W May 4 UNIT SIX (CONT.) – Group Project Presentations (cont.)

DoT Production of *Luna* May 5-8th

F May 6 UNIT SIX (CONT.) – Final Exam Review Day

Quiz #5 – Dramaturgy and Publicity

The Final Exam Period for this class is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Student Contract for THE 1310, Fall 2015

I have read the Course Syllabus for THE 1310 and understand its content including the attendance policy, productions required, academic honesty section, and classroom behavior requirements (including use of cell phones).

NAME (Signature)

Date