



**THE 1310 - Introduction to Theatre
 COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2016
 TR 9:30-10:45AM
 PERFORMING ARTS #100 (Main Theatre)**

Instructor: Lauren Simpson
Office Location: Room #108
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11AM-12PM or by appointment
University Email Address: lsimpson3@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 by Sarah Ruhl (PDF)*
Luna by Ramon Esquivel (PDF)
 *All PDF texts will be provided for you by the instructor

Required Viewing:

Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl
 Directed by Rebecca Worley
 Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at TAMU-C
 March 1-5 at 8PM and March 6 at 3PM

Luna by Ramon Esquivel
 Directed by Dr. Carrie Klypchak
 Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at TAMU-C
 May 5-7 at 6PM and May 8 at 3PM

You may make reservations by coming by the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1-5PM Monday-Friday. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900 or by email at playhouseboxoffice@cp.tamuc.edu. Or, you may purchase tickets online at marketplace.tamuc.edu/boxoffice. Tickets will go on sale Monday, February 15th for *Eurydice* and Monday, April 18th for *Luna*.

Ticket prices:

\$5-Students (with ID and Children 18 and under)
 \$10-Seniors (60+)
 \$15-Adults

In order to get credit for your attendance to a performance, you must turn in a copy of your program which has been signed by the house manager with your ticket stub stapled to the front of the program and your name must be clearly printed on the front of the program.

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 theatre.

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 theatre to the other arts and humanities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

In- Class Exercises (22 at 5 points each = 110 points 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 essay (1 at 100 points): 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 approximately 2 pages, typed, 12 pt. Arial font, well-organized (complete sentences, full paragraphs). I will consider spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure in grading. (See prompt and rubric when handed out)

Grading System and Scale:

Attendance	280 points total (28 at 10 points/day)
In-Class Exercises	110 points total (22 at 5 points each)
Quizzes	100 points total (5 at 20 points each)
Performance Response Essay 1	120 points
Group Project	90 points
Midterm Exam	150 points
<u>Final Exam (Practical)</u>	<u>150 points</u>
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 is required 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. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the quickest way to do so.

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.tamuc.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communications Skills Center

Hall of Languages (103)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

TAMUC Counseling Center

Student Services Building (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 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 “B” range; a seventh absence moves that student down into the “C” range and so on...)

Late Arrivals:

To further foster a high level of commitment – and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intense 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 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](#)

**Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University – Commerce.*

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.

Tentative Schedule: (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

T Jan19 Intro to Class and Syllabus

HOMEWORK: Obtain text; Complete class contract, answer questions and hand in at next class meeting. This is a requirement for this class.

UNIT ONE

R Jan 21 What is Theatre?; What is a Play?
ICE #1

Monday, Jan 25 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

T Jan 26 Elements
ICE #2
DUE: Class contract

R Jan 28 Reading a play

ICE #3
Quiz #1- Aristotle and Play structure

Monday, Feb 1 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 70% REFUND

T Feb 2 Character & Idea
ICE #4

R Feb 4 Realism & Non-Realism
ICE #5

UNIT TWO Monday, Feb 8 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 50% REFUND

T Feb 9 Playwriting
ICE #6

R Feb 11 Writing Process
ICE #7

Monday, Feb 15 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 25% REFUND

T Feb 16 Devised Theatre
ICE #8
Quiz #2 – Playwriting

UNIT FIVE

R Feb 18 Audience Etiquette
ICE #9

T Feb 23 Aesthetic value and performance criticism
ICE #10

R Feb 25 Midterm review

T Mar 1 MIDTERM
Eurydice Mar 1-6

UNIT THREE

R Mar 3 Design and Scenography
ICE #11

T Mar 8 Theatre Spaces
ICE #12

R Mar 10 **NO CLASS – UIL OAP CLINIC**

T & R Mar 15 & 17 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

T Mar 22 Scenic Design
ICE #13
DUE: Performance Response Essay

R Mar 24 Costume Design
ICE #14

T Mar 29 Lighting Design
ICE #15

R Mar 31 Sound Design
ICE #16

Sunday, Apr 3 – LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE

T Apr 5 Collaboration
ICE #17

R Apr 7 Collaboration continued
ICE #18
Quiz #3- Scenography

UNIT FOUR

T Apr 12 The Actor
ICE #19

R Apr 14 The Director
ICE #20

T Apr 19 Acting!
ICE #21

R Apr 21 **NO CLASS – UIL OAP REGIONAL CONTEST**

T Apr 26 Dramaturgy
Quiz #4- Acting and Directing

UNIT SIX

R Apr 28 Outreach/Public Relations/Marketing
ICE #22

Friday, Apr 29 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

T May 3 Group Project Presentations
Quiz #5- Dramaturgy and Publicity

R May 5 Presentations/Review

The Final Exam Period for this class is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 from 8AM to 10AM

Student Contract for THE 1310, Spring 2016

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