



THE 1310- 003E: Intro to Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2016
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.
PERFORMING ARTS #100 (Main Theatre)

Instructor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104
Office Hours: M/W 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., T/R 11am-1pm. or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Experiencing Theatre, Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Ireland

The Dispute, Pierre Carlet De Marivaux **(PDF)***

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

Required Viewing:

Acting: The First Six Lessons

By Beau and Emily Bridges

Director: Kelsey Cooper

Run: October 11 – 16

Venue: Studio Theatre

The Dispute

By Pierre Carlet de Marivaux, Translation by Gideon Lester

Director: Carrie Klypchak

Run: November 15 – 20

Venue: Main Stage

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 (100 pts.): Students are required to attend a performance of a Playhouse production (clear your schedules NOW!). Students will submit a paper 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

Grading System and Scale:

Attendance	280 points total (35 at 8 points/day)
In-Class Exercises	150 points total (30 at 5 points each)
Quizzes	100 points total (5 at 20 points each)
Performance Response Essay	100 points
Group Project	100 points
Midterm Exam	135 points
<u>Final Exam (Practical)</u>	<u>135 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 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.

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

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...)

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@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*).

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus <<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>> document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

url:<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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.

M Aug 29 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

W Aug 31 What is Theatre? What is a Play?

Thursday, Sept. 3rd- Last day to ADD a class without instructor permission

F Sept. 2 **DUE: Class contract with answers**

Ritual and performance

M Sept. 5 **LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES**

Monday, September 5- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

W Sept. 7 Aristotle's elements

ICE #1: Imagining a Production

F Sept. 9 Reading a play and play structure

ICE # 2: Types of plot

Quiz # 1- Aristotle and Play structure

M Sept. 12 Character & Idea, theme and concept

ICE # 3: Character and Theme

Monday, September 12- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 70% REFUND

W Sept. 14 Realism and Non-Realism

ICE # 4

F Sept 16 Presentational and Representational

ICE # 5

UNIT TWO

M Sept. 19 Playwriting

ICE # 6: Playwriting

Monday, September 19- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 50% REFUND

W. Sept. 21 Genre and playwriting

ICE # 7: Playwriting and monologue

F. Sept. 23 Devised Theatre
ICE # 8: Devised theatre freeze tag

M. Sept. 26 Devised theatre and social issues
ICE # 9

Quiz # 2- Playwriting

Monday, September 26- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 25% REFUND

UNIT THREE

W. Sept. 28 Design and Sceneography
ICE # 10: Visual metaphor and inspirational images

F Sept 30 Theatre spaces

M Oct 3 Scenic Design
ICE # 11: Scenic design

W Oct 5 Scenic Design
ICE # 12

F Oct 7 Costume design
ICE # 13: Costume design and texture

UNIT FIVE

M Oct 10 Audience Etiquette
ICE # 14: Bad audience

DoT Production *Acting: First Six Lessons* October 11-16

W Oct 12 Aesthetic value and performance criticism
ICE # 15: Performance review

UNIT THREE Continued

F Oct 14 Costume Design

ICE # 16

M Oct 17	Lighting Design ICE # 17: Lighting design gel
W Oct 19	Lighting design ICE # 18
F Oct 21	Sound Design ICE #19: Sound design and mood
M Oct 24	Sound Design ICE # 20
W Oct 26	Collaboration Quiz # 4 Design
F Oct 28	Midterm review
M Oct 31	MIDTERM
W Nov 2	The actor ICE # 22: In the moment
Thursday, Nov. 3 - LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE	

UNIT FOUR

F Nov 4	The director and vision and concept
M Nov 7	Stage pictures and blocking ICE # 23
W Nov 9	Improv and acting ICE # 24: Prop improv

F Nov 11 Aesthetic value and performance criticism
ICE # 16: Performance review

M Nov 14 Gesture, Stanislavsky and Viewpoints
ICE # 25: Modeling

DoT Production *The Dispute* November 15-20

W Nov 16 Cold scenes and auditioning
ICE # 26: Cold reading

F Nov 18 Dramaturgy
ICE # 27
Quiz # 4 Acting and directing

UNIT SIX

M Nov 21 Outreach/public relations
ICE # 28: Event outreach

W & F Nov 23 & 25 NO CLASS HAPPY THANKSGIVING

M Nov 28 Marketing
ICE # 29: Press release and logo
***The Dispute* Papers Due**

W Nov 30 Publicity
ICE # 30: Posters
Quiz # 5 Dramaturgy and Publicity

F Dec 2 Roles in theatre group project

M Dec. 5 Roles in theatre group project

W Dec. 7 **Presentations Due**

F Dec. 9 **Presentations** and review

The Final Exam Period for this class is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th from 10:30 am to 12:30pm

Student Contract for THE 1310, Fall 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 (Print)

NAME (Signature)

Date