



**THE 1310 - Introduction to Theatre
 COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016
 TR 11:00-12:15
 PERFORMING ARTS #100 (Main Theatre)**

Instructor: Kelsey Cooper
Office Location: Room #101
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2pm or by appointment
University Email Address: kelsey.cooper@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Experiencing Theatre, Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Irelan

Required Viewing:

Acting: The First Six Lessons, by Emily Bridges and Beau Bridges, based on the text by Richard Boleslavsky, Produced by the University Playhouse at TAMU- Commerce, October 11-15 at 8pm and Oct. 16th at 3pm

Please reserve seats!

-AND-

The Dispute, By Pierre Carlet de Marivaux, Translation by Gideon Lester

Director: Carrie Klypchak, November 15 – 19 8:00 p.m., and Nov. 20 at 3 p.m.

Tickets for productions are available for a nominal fee. You may make reservations by coming by 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. The Box Office should also be able to direct you as to how to purchase tickets on the new online system.

Ticket Prices: TAMU-C Students/Faculty/Staff (with Valid Student/Faculty/Staff ID) and Children under 18 - \$5.00; Senior Citizens (ages 60+) - \$10.00; Adults - \$15.00.

*Note: Please understand that viewing of the performances listed is an absolute requirement of the course. Part of becoming a skilled actor is viewing other actors' successes and challenges. Clear your schedule now!

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 at the end of the show, 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 (16 at 5 points each = 80 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 (2 at 50 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, double spaced, 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)

Quizzes (4 at 25 points each) Exams (2 at 150 points each): Will be administered in eCollege and will cover the text, classroom lectures, discussions and any outside viewing and readings.

Group Projects (2 @ 70 points each) : Students will choose a group to work on a final project that displays mastery of all elements of the course. More information will be given at a later date.

Grading System and Scale:

Attendance	280 points total (28 at 10 points/day)
In-Class Exercises	80 points total (16 at 5 points each)
Quizzes	100 points total (4 at 25 points each)
Performance Response Essays	100 points (2 at 50 points each)
Group Projects	140 points (2 @ 70 points each)
Midterm Exam	150 points
Final Exam (Practical)	150 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 and 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. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the quickest way to do so.

ECOLLEGE: All of your tests and quizzes will be taken on eCollege and written assignments will be turned in on the Dropbox function. Please be sure these are accessible before deadlines hit. "It wasn't working" will not be accepted.

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. Any missed deadlines due to extenuating circumstances must be turned in with documentation.

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*).

NON DISCRIMINATION NOTICE: Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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 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.

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

T Aug 30 Intro to Class and Syllabus

HOMEWORK: Obtain text-Read Introduction pages vii-x and Chapter 1 pages 1-4 for Thursday (on eCollege under DocShare); Complete class contract, answer questions and hand in at next class meeting. This is a requirement for this class.

EXPLORATION ONE

R Sep 1 Discuss” Introduction” and What is Theatre? Pages Xii-X and 1-4.
 ICE #1
 DUE: Class contract

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

T Sep 6 Elements, Pages 5-8
ICE #2

R Sep 8 Reading a play, Pages 8-13
ICE #3

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

T Sep 13 Character & Idea, Pages 13-15
ICE #4

R Sep 15 Realism & Non-Realism, Pages 15-17
ICE #5

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

T Sep 20 Ready, Set. Read! Playwriting/The Script Pages 17-20
ICE #6

E1 Quiz -Pages xii-20 due before class TUESDAY 9/27 on eCollege!

EXPLORATION TWO

R Sep 22 Writing Process-Pages 21-31
ICE #7

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

T Sep 27 Types of Plays, Devised Theatre-Chart on page 28 and 32-37
ICE #8

E2 Quiz -Pages 21-37 due before class TUESDAY 10/4 on eCollege!

EXPLORATION FIVE

R Sep 29 Audience Etiquette, Pages 92-96
ICE #9

T Oct 4 Aesthetic Value and Performance Criticism, Pages 96-103
ICE #10

R Oct 6 Midterm review, Pages xii -37 and 92-103

MIDTERM ONLINE! Due before THURSDAY 10/13 ON eCOLLEGE

EXPLORATION THREE

T Oct 11 Design and Scenography/Theatre Spaces, 38-44
ICE #11

ACTING: THE FIRST SIX LESSONS OCT. 11-16 RESERVE TICKETS!!!!

- R Oct 13 Sound Design, 62-66
Sound Design Project Assigned.
- T Oct 18 **NO CLASS – WORK ON YOUR SOUND DESIGN & RESPONSE ESSAY**
- R Oct 20 **NO CLASS – WORK ON YOUR SOUND DESIGN & RESPONSE ESSAY**
- T Oct 25 Sound Design Presentations & Essays due to Box by the beginning of Class!
- R Oct 27 Sound Design Presentations, Scenic Design and Staff 43-49
ICE #12
- T Nov 1 Costume/Lighting Design 49-62
ICE #13

E3 Quiz -Pages 38-68 due before class TUESDAY 11/8 on eCollege!

EXPLORATION FOUR

- R Nov 3 The Actor, Pages 69-79, ICE #14
- T Nov 8 Auditioning/Types of Rehearsals/The Director 80-86
ICE #15
- R Nov 10 Dramaturgy 86-91
ICE #16

EXPLORATION SIX

- T Nov 15 Outreach/Public Relations/Marketing, 105-116
Assign Final Projects

***The Dispute* Nov. 15-20**

E4/6 Quiz -Pages 69-91 and 105-116 due before 11am TUESDAY 11/22 on eCollege!

FINAL PROJECT

- R Nov 17 In Class Final Project Rehearsal, **Outline due by the end of Class.**
- T Nov 22 **NO CLASS-TRAVEL SAFE, Think about Final Project! PW-WRITE SCRIPT**
- R Nov 24 **NO CLASS-GOBBLE GOBBLE**
- T Nov 29 In Class Final Project Rehearsal, **Script and Response Essay Due in box by classtime.**
- R Dec 1 In Class Rehearsal
- T Dec 6 In Class Rehearsal
- R Dec 8 In Class Rehearsal, Final Review. **All Final Design due to Box AS ONE DOCUMENT by classtime**

The Final Exam Period for this class is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 1030 to 1230-We will start promptly at 1030 and perform our Final Projects!

The Final Exam will be online from Thursday the 8th until Thursday the 15th at 11pm.

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

Printed Name:

Name you prefer to be called:

Major:

Hometown:

Why are you taking this class?

What are three things you hope to learn?