



**THE 1310 - Introduction to Theatre
 COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2017
 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. Ireland

Required Viewing:

One Flea Spare, by Naomi Wallace, Produced by the University Playhouse at TAMU- Commerce, February 28th-March 4 at 8pm and March 5th at 3pm

Please reserve seats!

-OR-

Smoke on the Mountain: Homecoming, Written by Connie Ray, Musical Arrangements by Mike Craver , April 25 – 29 8pm and April 30 at 3pm

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:

Attendance- _____/25 points

Quizzes- _____/40 points Quiz1-_____. Quiz 2_____, Quiz 3_____, Quiz 4_____

Midterm- _____/25 points

Final- _____/25 points

A: 150-135 points

PW Project- _____/15 points

B: 135-120 points

SD Project- _____/15 points

C: 120-105 points

Performance Program- _____/5 points

D: 105-90 points

F: Below 90 points

Total: _____/150

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. Information about Projects will be given at a later date and Quiz/Test dates are stated in the Course calendar.

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. 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@tamuc.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/34Safet yOfEmployeesAndStudents/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.

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

T Jan 17 Intro to Class and Syllabus

HOMEWORK: Obtain text-Read Introduction pages vii-x for Thursday (will be emailed); complete class contract, answer questions and hand in at next class meeting. This is a requirement for this class.

EXPLORATION ONE

R Jan 19 Discuss" Introduction"
DUE: Class contract

T Jan 24 What is Theatre? And Elements, **Pages1-8**

R Jan 26 Reading a Play, Aristotle's Elements, The Script **Pages 8-20**

T Jan 31 Review

R Feb 2 **Quiz #1 in Class**

EXPLORATION TWO

T Feb 7 Writing Process, Types of Plays, Devised Theatre-**Pages 21-37**

R Feb 9 Review, Assign PW Project

T Feb 14 **Quiz #2**, Happy Valentine's Day!

R Feb 16 **NO CLASS!!** UIL CLINIC

EXPLORATION THREE

T Feb 21 Design and Scenography/Theatre Spaces, **38-49 Plays Due!**

R Feb 23 Costume/Lighting Design **49-62**

T Feb 28 Sound Design, **62-66**, Sound Design Project Assigned, Review
ONE FLEA SPARE OPENS! Reserve TICKETS!

R March 2 **Quiz 3 in class**

T Mar 7 Review, Work on SD Projects

R Mar 9 **Midterm**

Spring Break March 14/16

- T Mar 21 **Sound Design Presentations**
- R Mar 23 Sound Design Presentations cont'd.

EXPLORATION FOUR

- T Mar 28 The Performer, Pages **69-79**
- R Mar 30 Auditioning/Types of Rehearsals/The Director, Dramaturgy **80-91**

April 4/6 NO Class!! UIL

EXPLORATION FIVE

- T April 11 Audience Etiquette, Aesthetic Value and Criticism Pages **92-103**

EXPLORATION SIX

- R April 13 Outreach/Public Relations/Marketing, **105-116**, Review
- T April 18 **Quiz 4**
- R April 20 Musical Theater-Lecture/Videos
- T Apr 25 Theatre Around the World-Lecture/Videos
SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN: HOMECOMING OPENS!
- R Apr 27 Adaptation-Lecture/Videos
- T May 2 Review
- R May 4 **Final Exam-LAST CLASS!**