



**THE 1310 - Introduction to Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2018
T 9:30-1045/11:00-12:15
PERFORMING ARTS #100 (Main Theatre)**

Instructor: Kelsey Cooper
Office Location: Room #101
Office Hours: By Appointment
University Email Address: kelsey.cooper@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Experiencing Theatre, Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Irelan

Required Viewing:

2/13-18 *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, by Rajiv Joseph-Reserved seats required!

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. 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 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 in a domestic and global sense
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:

Grading System and Scale:

Attendance	25%
Quizzes	20%
Projects/Assignments	30%
Final Exam	20%
Show Program	5%

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/Assignments will be given at a later date and Quiz due 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.

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 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 FULL 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
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Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy:

Each class counts as a point toward your attendance grade. Attendance is worth 25% of your final grade. We only meet once a week, please plan accordingly! If you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP. Timely documentation will help toward an absence being excused.

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/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

Course Organization-Explorations 1&5, 2&3, 4&6

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 23 Intro to Class, Syllabus
- R Jan 25 NO CLASS, Course Contract Due Tuesday 1/30

EXPLORATION ONE

- T Jan 30 Discuss “Introduction”, What is Theatre?, Elements Pages Xii-X and 1-8.
DUE: COURSE CONTRACT
- R Feb 1 NO CLASS, Reserve Tickets for *Playground Injuries*
- T Feb 6 READING A PLAY, Character & Idea, Pages 8-17
- R Feb 8 NO CLASS, “Idea Assignment” due Tuesday 2/13

EXPLORATION FIVE

- T Feb 13 Etiquette, Aesthetic Value and Performance Criticism, Pgs 92-96
DUE: IDEA ASSIGNMENT
- R Feb 15 NO CLASS, Be sure to see and take notes on *Playground Injuries*, Prepare Notes for Quiz
- T Feb 20 **Quiz #1**
- R Feb 22 NO CLASS, Compose *Playground Injuries* review

EXPLORATION TWO

- T Feb 27 Ready, Set. Read! Playwriting/The Script, Types of Plays Pgs 17-20, 28
DUE: PLAY REVIEW AND SHOW PROGRAM
- R Mar 1 NO CLASS
- T Mar 6 Writing Process, Devised Theatre-Pages 21-37
- R Mar 8 NO CLASS, Work on Playwriting assignment
- T Mar 13/ R Mar 15 SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS, Playwriting assignment due Tuesday 3/20

EXPLORATION FIVE

- T Mar 20 Design and Scenography, Theatre Spaces, Scenic Design 38-49
DUE: PLAYWRITING ASSIGNMENT
- R Mar 22 NO CLASS
- T Mar 27 Costume/Lighting/Sound Design 49-62
- R Mar 29 NO CLASS, Work on Sound Design, Prepare Notes for Quiz
- T Apr 3 **QUIZ #2**
- R Apr 5 NO CLASS, Sound Design due 4/10

EXPLORATION FOUR

- T Apr 10 Types of Rehearsals/The Director, Dramaturgy 80-86
DUE: SOUND DESIGN TO DROPBOX BY CLASSTIME
- R Apr 12 NO CLASS, Work on Casting Project
- T Apr 17 The Actor, Auditioning Pages 69-80
- R Apr 19 NO CLASS, Casting Project Due Tuesday 4/24

EXPLORATION SIX

- T Apr 24 Outreach/Public Relations/Marketing, 105-116
DUE: CASTING PROJECT
- R Apr 26 NO CLASS, Mission Statement due Tuesday 5/1, Prepare notes for Final
- T May 1 **FINAL EXAM**

Please let me know if you have any questions! Kelsey.Cooper@tamuc.edu

Student Contract for THE 1310, Spring 2018

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:

Anything else I need to know: (Name you prefer to be called, accommodations, foreseeable absences, etc.)