



**THE 1310: GLB/US INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2018
M/W/F 10:00-10:50 a.m.
PERFORMING ARTS #100**

**Instructor: Jacob Foster, BFA, MS, Graduate Assistant
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #107
Office Hours: M/W/F: 1-4 p.m. T/R 11a.m.-4p.m. or by appointment
University Email Address: jfoster21@leomail.tamuc.edu**

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook and Readings:

Experiencing Theatre, Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Irelan (15th ed)

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Bertolt Brecht (PDF)*

Peter and the Starcatcher, Rick Elise (PDF)*

Hand-outs distributed in class and/or posted online

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

Required Viewing:

Eleemosynary

Directed by Sam Cox

Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce

October 9-13 at 8 p.m. and October 14 at 3 p.m.

She Stoops to Conquer

Directed by Dr. Carrie Klypchak

Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce

November 13-17 at 8 p.m. and November 18 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available for a normal 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:

A survey of the fields of theatre activity designed to provide introductory knowledge of phases of drama, literature, performance, theatre facilities and equipment, and production procedures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Production Paper (2 @ 10 pts = 20 pts.): Students will write a two 2 page papers (no more, no less) of one of the plays discussed in class: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht, or *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elise. The paper must include a brief summary of the play following the linear plot forms discussed in class as well as the student's opinion on the play.

Please remember play titles are in italics. Punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure will count in the grading. Papers are to be printed out and hand delivered to the instructor.

Performance Critique Paper (1 @ 10 pts = 10 pts): Students are required to attend a performance of at least one of the TAMUC Playhouse productions. Students will submit a paper on their opinion of the production as well as apply concepts discussed in class. Papers should be approx. 1 page, typed, double-spaced, and 12 pt. font. Punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure will count in the grading. Papers are to be printed out and hand delivered to the instructor or submitted via email to: jfoster21@leomail.tamuc.edu.

Quizzes (2 @ 10 pts = 20 pts): Two quizzes will be given during the semester covering topics previously discussed in class. There will be 4 open ended questions per quiz.

Tests (Tests 1 & 2 @ 15 pts. each = 30 pts) Two tests will be given during the semester covering topics previously discussed in class.

Final (1 @ 20 pts. = 20 pts): Students will work in groups of no more than 8 and select a play at random. Group of students will provide brief presentation over a play listed at the end of this syllabus as well as a play research paper. Presentation can be in a handout, PowerPoint, or a poster board collage. Presentations will be delivered by hand or emailed to the instructor at: jfoster21@leomail.tamuc.edu no later than the last day of class.

Grading Breakdown:

The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

Production Papers	20 pts.	100-90 =	A
Application Papers	10 pts.	89-90=	B
Quizzes	20 pts.	79-70=	C
Tests	30 pts.	69-60=	D
Final	20 pts.	50 and below=	F
TOTAL	100pts.		

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.

ACCESS TO ECOLLEGE: There will be documents and plays uploaded to eCollege through your myLeo account. If you do not know how to access eCollege please feel free to let me know and I will be glad to help.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Me:

Feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help and I want you to make an A! If you miss me during my office hours, send me an email and we can set up an appointment.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email, first read over the syllabus to see if a question you have could be answered on here. Again, my email is: jfoster21@leomail.tamuc.edu

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLITIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy:

You may accumulate five (5) absences before any penalty occurs. After your fifth unexcused absence a half of letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. If you become sick, have an injury, or if a family emergency arises email the instructor ASAP.

Late Arrivals:

Students must be on time for every class. Entering the class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less than disciplined/committed student. Please come to class on time. The class will begin at the precise time of that

which is stated in the syllabus. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class.

Cell Phones and Laptops:

I do not allow cell phones in my class. Please put them away when class starts. I allow laptops in my class for note taking purposes only. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ask you to put them away.

Late Work:

I will accept late work, **HOWEVER**, For each class day an assignment is late, a letter grade will be docked from the assignment grade. I will not accept late work after three class days of it not being turned in.

Extra Credit:

I offer extra credit in two forms:

- (1) If the student attends a production outside of the university or attends to an event gearing to the arts. Email me a selfie of you with your program at the theatre space.
- (2) If the student auditions for one of the TAMUC Playhouse season productions.

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 arrival 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.

Academic Dishonesty:

This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed out 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 the incident will be reported to the Head of the Department (*you should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester*).

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill – 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in the Texas A&M University-Commerce building 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

(<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

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

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Phone (903) 886-5150

Student Disability Resources & Services

Fax (903) 468-8148

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

WEEK 1

M Aug 27	Hand out syllabus and discussion
W Aug 29	Create groups for semester / Introduction
F Aug 30	Introduction

WEEK 2

M Sept 3	LABOR DAY / NO CLASS
W Sept 5	Exploration #1
F Sept 7	Exploration #1

WEEK 3

M Sept 10	Exploration #1
W Sept 12	Exploration #1
F Sept 14	QUIZ # 1

WEEK 4

M Sept 17	Exploration #2
W Sept 19	Exploration #2
F Sept 21	Exploration #2

WEEK 5

M Sept 24
W Sept 26
F Sept 28

QUIZ #2

Discuss *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Production Paper #1 Due / Test #1 Review

WEEK 6

M Oct 1
W Oct 3
F Oct 5

TEST #1

Exploration # 3
Exploration #3

WEEK 7

M Oct 8
W Oct 10
F Oct 12

Exploration #3
Exploration #3

ATTENDANCE PICK UP DAY / LECTURE

WEEK 8

M Oct 15
W Oct 17
F Oct 19

QUIZ #3

Exploration #4
Exploration #4

WEEK 9

M Oct 22
W Oct 24
F Oct 26

Exploration #4
Exploration #4
Exploration #4

WEEK 10

M Oct 29
W Oct 31
F Nov 2

QUIZ #4

Discuss *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*
Production Paper #2 Due / Test #2 Review

WEEK 11

M Nov 5
W Nov 7
F Nov 9

TEST #2

Exploration #5
Exploration #5

WEEK 12

M Nov 12
W Nov 14
F Nov 16

Exploration #5
Exploration #5

QUIZ #5

WEEK 13

M Nov 19
W Nov 21
F Nov 23

Discuss *Peter and the Starcatcher*
THANKSGIVING BREAK / NO CLASS
THANKSGIVING BREAK / NO CLASS

WEEK 14

M Nov 26 Production Paper #3 Due / Exploration #6
W Nov 28 Exploration #6
F Nov 30 Exploration #6

WEEK 15

M Dec 3 **ATTENDANCE PICK UP DAY / IMPROV & GAME DAY**
W Dec 5 Discussion for final / Performance Critique Due
F Dec 7 Discussion for final / Work with groups

FINALS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10TH FROM 10:30A.M. - 12:30P.M.

CRITERIA FOR FINAL

PLAY RESEARCH PROJECT

In the group you were given at the beginning of the semester, one person will select a play at random from the list below and give a presentation over their research of the play for the week of finals.

The presentation must include:

- Play Research Form (*sample below*)
- Set design concept and drawing
- Concept image collage
- Production photos
- Playwright biography
- **EXTRA CREDIT*** Video of a scene from the play

There will be one team captain per group who is in charge of delegating tasks within the group

PLAYS:

Antigone, Sophocles

The Aliens, Annie Baker

The Bald Soprano, Eugene Ionesco

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Tennessee Williams

Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, Bert V. Royal

Eurydice, Sarah Ruhl

Gruesome Playground Injuries, Rajiv Joseph

The Hairy Ape, Eugene O'Neill

Machinal, Sophie Treadwell

Marisol, Jose Rivera

Metamorphoses, Mary Zimmerman

Orlando, Sarah Ruhl

Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

The Other Place, Sharr White

We Are Proud to Present..., Jackie Sibblies Drury

Yankee Tavern, Steven Dietz

Play Research Form:

Play title: Title of the play

Playwright: Who wrote the play?

Genre: What type of play is it?

Year written: When was the play written and first performed?

List of characters: Who is in the play?

Setting: Where does the story take place?

Play summary and plot structure: What is the story about?

Student opinion on play: What do you think about the play?

Create the stage: What would the stage look like? How would you direct it?

Jake Foster
Tom Cruise
Emma Watson
Evan Peters
Amanda Bynes
Chris Pratt

SAMPLE

PLAY RESEARCH FORM
Group #3

Play: *The Baltimore Waltz*

Playwright: Paula Vogel

Genre: Serio-Comedy

Year: 1992

List of Characters: Anna, Carl, Doctor

Setting: Hospital room in Baltimore, Maryland and various locations in Europe

Play Summary: When Anna, an unmarried schoolteacher, is diagnosed with ATD, Acquired Toilet Disease, a fatal new malady with a high risk factor for the elementary school teachers, she and her brother Carl take flight to Europe. Anna decides she wants to down herself in the sensuality of food and sex, while Carl becomes involved in a while Third Mannish espionage scheme to find a cure for his sister on the Continent. Their European adventure is broken by Carl's death, and the tragic revelation that the entire play was Anna's valiant fantasy to keep alive her brother's spirit when she could not save his life.

Student Opinion: Our group enjoyed reading *The Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel! We were all blown away by the ending when we found the entire production took place in Anna's imagination while she waiting for her in the ER for her brother. We all got emotional when we found out Carl was dead the entire time and Anna was using this trip to cope with her brother passing of HIV. Elements we found humorous in *The Baltimore Waltz* was the quick wit and cunning brought on by Anna and The Third Man in the bedroom during Scene 13! The part we most enjoyed was when Anna and Carl first got to Paris, France and Anna had to stuff her face with as much food as she could while still trying to maintain her composure. Our favorite character was The Third Man because his part consisted of 16 other roles!

Creating the Space: Our group envisioned the production being done with minimal set and props. 4 boxes, 2 columns, and a white sheet that will be used to show projections throughout Anna and Carl's various locations in Europe. Costume pieces would be contemporary. Actors would make a dance for each scene transition. Amanda had the idea of when Carl's dead body is revealed following his and Anna's waltz, the Doctor would take down the projector sheet and cover Carl's body.