



**THE 1310: GLB/US INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2018
M/W/F 9:00-9:50 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. Ireland (15th ed)

She Kills Monsters, Qui Nguyen (PDF)*

The Bald Soprano, Eugene Ionesco (PDF)*

Hand-outs distributed in class and/or posted online

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

Required Viewing:

She Kills Monsters

Directed by Rebecca Worley

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

February 19-23 at 8 p.m. and February 24 at 3pm

The Bald Soprano

Directed by Jacob Foster

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

April 23-27 at 8 p.m. and 28 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

Production Papers (2 @ 10 pts = 20 pts.): Students will write a two 1 page papers (no more, no less) of two of the plays discussed in class: *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen and *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco. 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. The first paragraph will be about plot, what was the play about, IN YOUR OWN WORDS. The second paragraph will discuss the student's opinion of the play read. What did the student thinks about the play as well as how would they have handled any of the character's given circumstances. **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. The first paragraph will be about what the student saw which include spectacle, design, and acting. The second paragraph will discuss the student's overall opinion of the play they saw. 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 (6 @ 5 pts = 30 pts): Six quizzes will be given during the semester covering topics previously discussed in class. There will be 4 open ended questions per quiz.

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

Final (1 @ 10pts. = 10 pts): Students will work in groups of no more than 5 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 will be done in Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides. Group Collaboration sheets will be delivered by hand or emailed to the instructor at: jfoster21@leomail.tamuc.edu prior to final presentation.

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
Performance Crit. Paper	10 pts.	89-90=	B
Quizzes	30 pts.	79-70=	C
Tests	30 pts.	69-60=	D
Final	10 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
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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 discreetly 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 of 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*). Academic dishonesty also includes signing in for someone else. If I find out a student has been signing in for another student. **ONE LETTER GRADE** will be deducted from BOTH students' final grade. If student plagiarizes any paper

during the semester, a ZERO will occur on the paper resulting in ONE LETTER GRADE being deducted from final grade.

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

Phone (903) 886-5150

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*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK 1

M Jan 14

Hand out syllabus and discussion

W Jan 16

Create groups for semester / Introduction

F Jan 18

Introduction

WEEK 2

M Jan 21

Exploration #1

W Jan 23

Exploration #1

F Jan 25 Exploration #1 / Quiz 1 Review

WEEK 3

M Jan 28 **QUIZ #1**
W Jan 31 Exploration #2
F Feb 1 Exploration #2

WEEK 4

M Feb 4 Exploration #2 / Quiz #2 Review
W Feb 6 **QUIZ #2**
F Feb 8 In Class: *She Kills Monsters*

WEEK 5

M Feb 11 In Class: *She Kills Monsters*
W Feb 13 In Class: *She Kills Monsters*
F Feb 15 In Class: *She Kills Monsters*

WEEK 6

M Feb 18 Production Paper #1 Due / Test #1 Review
W Feb 20 **TEST #1**
F Feb 22 Exploration #3

WEEK 7

M Feb 25 Exploration #3
W Feb 27 Exploration #3
F Mar 1 Exploration #3

WEEK 8

M Mar 4 Exploration #3
W Mar 6 **QUIZ #3**
F Mar 8 Exploration #4

WEEK 9

M Mar 11 Exploration #4
W Mar 13 Exploration #4
F Mar 15 Exploration #4 / Quiz #4 Review

WEEK 10

M Mar 18 SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS
W Mar 20 SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS
F Mar 22 SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS

WEEK 11

M Mar 25 **QUIZ #4**

W Mar 27 Exploration #5
F Mar 29 Exploration #5

WEEK 12

M Apr 1 Test #2 Review
W Apr 3 **TEST #2**
F Apr 5 Quiz #5 Review / Work on final

WEEK 13

M Apr 8 **QUIZ #5**
W Apr 10 Exploration #6
F Apr 12 Exploration #6 / Quiz #6 Review

WEEK 14

M Apr 15 **QUIZ #6**
W Apr 17 In Class: *The Bald Soprano*
F Apr 19 In Class: *The Bald Soprano*

WEEK 15

M Apr 23 In Class: *The Bald Soprano*
W Apr 25 Production Paper #2 Due
F Apr 27 Discussion for final / Work with groups / In-Class Assignment

WEEK 16

M Apr 29 Work on final with group
W May 1 Work on final with group / Early Decision Final Presentations
F May 3 Early Decision Final Presentations

FINALS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th. 8:00am-10:00am

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. The group will give a presentation over their research of the play for the week of finals or earlier if they choose. Rubric will be provided to groups prior to the final.

The presentation must include:

- Play Research Form (*will provide instructions in class*)
- Painted Elevation
- Concept Image Collage
- Costume Rendering
- Production Photos
- Playwright Biography
- **EXTRA CREDIT*** Video of a scene from the play or brief performance in class.

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

PLAYS:

The Baltimore Waltz, Paula Vogel

Bury the Dead, Irwin Shaw

The Buried Child, Sam Shepard

The Credeaux Canvas, Keith Bunin

Constellations, Nick Payne

The Green Cockatoo, Arthur Schnitzler

The House of Bernarda Alba, Federico Garcia Lorca

Indecent, Paula Vogel

Let the Right One In, Jack Thorne

Peter and the Starcatcher, Rick Elise

The Love of the Nightingale, Timberlake Wertenbaker

The Shadow Box, Michael Cristofer

Speech & Debate, Stephen Karam

The Voice of the Prairie, John Olive

Tribes, Nina Raine

Veronica's Room, Ira Levin

Vinegar Tom, Caryl Churchill

Woyzeck, Georg Buchner