



# THE 1310-TAB INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Judith Sebesta

**Office Location:** Online

**Office Hours:** Online Wednesdays 8am-1pm; or by appointment

**ORGL Office Phone:** 903-468-3320 (Please leave message)

**Office Fax:** 903-468-3323

**Email:** [Judith.Sebesta@tamuc.edu](mailto:Judith.Sebesta@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Less than 24 hours

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Videos

The primary text for this course is [\*Theatrical Worlds\*](#), edited by Charlie Mitchell and published by the University Press of Florida. This open source text is available as a free download; click on the title above and then click on the link "PDF" in the bar at the top of the page (you will need a pdf viewer such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), available as a free download as well). You can purchase a print copy for \$25 through the [University Press of Florida](#). There also are numerous, very inexpensive used copies for sale on [Amazon](#) if you do want a print copy. If you have any difficulties accessing the text, please don't hesitate to let me know.

You also will read two plays, available for free through the links below:

[Medea](#), by Euripides

[Trifles](#), by Susan Glaspell

Finally, you will be exploring numerous video clips, including interviews, production excerpts, TED Talks, documentaries, etc., as well as three full productions that are freely available via YouTube.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Course Description

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

### QEP Global Course:

This course has been selected as a Global Course – tied to the QEP. The university QEP seeks to prepare students for an interconnected world. In relation to the QEP, students completing this course will be able to (LO1) demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems), (LO2) apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics, and/ or (LO3) view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world. This course will provide information, activities, experiences, and opportunities to accomplish at least one of the QEP learning outcomes. The essay required in Competency 6 should be saved as a word or PDF document, and then uploaded into your ePortfolio.

**Upon initial submission**, the instructor will provide constructive feedback to the student. The student will have an opportunity to improve the essay based on the feedback prior to submitting a final version. The instructor will grade and respond, offering additional feedback for improvements. Students are expected to utilize the feedback and make final improvements, and then submit the final, polished essay to their ePortfolio as a demonstration of competency in the content area.

## Course Competencies

The competencies you will demonstrate in this course are as follows:

**Competency 1:** Students will identify the foundational characteristics of theatre.

**Competency 2:** Students will express contextualized and tolerant interpretations of the historical foundations of Western theatre as well as different types of dramatic literature.

**Competency 3:** Students can describe major artistic positions, and their collaborative work, in the theatrical discipline.

**Competency 4:** Students will evaluate creative works of the human imagination, applying appropriate disciplinary standards of judgment and vocabulary.

**Competency 5:** Students can describe world theatre and its relevance in a global society.

**Competency 6:** Students will apply knowledge gained in this course to broader contexts.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system (D2L), Microsoft Word, and the Internet (e.g. YouTube).

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## Instructional Methods

This course is based on the tenets of competence-based education (CBE), which include consideration of the students' prior learning, not attempting to teach students what they already know, and attempting to connect their success to proper timing, relevant exposure, and authentic assessment.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

This flexible-paced course requires you to regularly log into the course and to effectively manage your time to support your own success. Your instructor is regularly available to assist with your learning and will provide timely (usually within 24 hours) answers to questions and feedback on assessments. Although you can begin your work at almost any time during the term, you must complete and submit all assessments, assignments, and competencies by 5:00 pm on the final date of the term. Students who wait until the final two weeks of the course to begin their work in it have a significantly decreased chance of completing it, and waiting until the final week all but guarantees a failing grade.

## GRADING

Passing grades for all competencies, assessments, and the final essay for this course are a score of 80 points (out of 100) or higher. The first five competencies are each worth 100 points. The essay in the sixth competency is worth 50 points and will be combined with the total score for discussion participation in five of six discussions (with each discussion worth 10 points for a total of 50 possible points) to total 100 points for Competency 6. All six scores will be averaged for the final course grade, which will be submitted and transcribed as an A (90-100), B (80-89), or F.

So:

Assessment/Assignment	Points possible
Competency 1 Posttest	100
Competency 2 Posttest	100
Competency 3 Posttest	100
Competency 4 Posttest	100
Competency 5 Posttest	100
Competency 6	100

Essay = 50 pts

5 Discussions = 50 (10 pts each)

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## Assessments

### Pretests and Posttests

The pretests and posttests for this theatre course assess your knowledge of all phases of drama, literature, performance, theatre plants and equipment, and production procedures.

#### Pretest

The purpose of the pretest is to provide a baseline understanding of your knowledge in the competency. The pretests (five total) are required for the course, although the scores do not count toward your final grade. You can access all five pretests at any time. **Once you complete a pretest, you should email the instructor, who will grade it, providing feedback where appropriate, and send the password to access the posttest.**

#### Posttest

The posttest is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the competency. **A score of 80 points or higher is required on every competency to pass.** In order to access the posttests for all competencies, you must first complete and submit the pretest; once the pretest is graded, you will receive a password to access the posttests.

If you score less than 80 points on any competency you will have an opportunity to review the material and re-take the competency posttest. You may take the posttest assessment up to three times. If you have not passed the competency in three attempts, you will fail the course. However, any competencies you have completed and passed *up to that point* can be rolled forward if you enroll in the course again in future terms. You may also work with an Academic Coach to determine another method of fulfilling the program requirements in this subject.

### Discussions

You are required to contribute to five out of six “discussions” on strategic topics raised in the readings/videos. Each post should be no less than 100 words and no more than 250. Feel free to participate and post as often as you like, but you only will be graded on the initial post in each topic. These are worth 10 points each for a total score of 50. This score is added to your essay score (worth 50 points) in Competency 6 for the total score (out of 100) for that competency. There are a total of six discussion topics and you can select five to contribute to (there will be no extra points if you contribute to a sixth or post multiple posts in a topic).

Although termed “discussions,” the six topics available actually are meant to serve as crowd-sourced “wikis,” with students creating a body of knowledge in each that can be accessed by everyone in the course for further ideas, insights, and information.

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You are expected to use proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc., so carefully compose your responses, and you might consider composing them in MS Word first, with spell and grammar check, and then cutting and pasting.

I understand that some people are stronger writers than others, but it is expected that your written assignments in this course, including these discussions, have been reasonably edited for spelling and grammatical mistakes. Habitual typos and nonsensical sentences will result in lowered scores.

Posts should refer to material covered in the course readings and videos. They give me the chance to hear from you about your take on the course content. They also give you a chance to check in with what other students (or me, if you are the first student to post) in the class are thinking about the same material. It is expected that you answer the questions and prompts thoughtfully – if you use personal anecdotes (and you definitely can!), be sure to contextualize them as they pertain to the prompt, the course material referenced and the class.

**RUBRIC:**

Contributes meaningful and new ideas	5 pts
Utilizes proper mechanics, coherence, and etiquette	5 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 pts</b>

**Essay**

For competency 6, students will prepare and submit an essay of **500 words** to address: How did this course better prepare you, as an organizational leader, for a global, interconnected world? How does the practice of theatre, and those who create it, connect to your own work as a leader and collaborator? You will be able to submit two drafts before submitting the final draft.

**Leadership**

Does the essay demonstrate an understanding of leadership in theatre practice, e.g. through the work of the director? 10 pts

**Connections to Broader Contexts**

Does the essay address how theatre connects to leadership in other contexts/sectors? 10 pts

**Global Understanding**

Does the essay include connections between theatre, leadership, and a global world? 10 pts

**Organization**

Is the essay well structured, with an interesting opening in an introductory paragraph that states the thesis and gives a brief overview of the points that will support the thesis, several paragraphs covering the main points, and a good conclusion that does more than restate the main points? 10 pts

**Mechanics**

Has the essay been edited for spelling, grammar, tense, number, commas, semicolons, etc.? Does the student present his/her points in a clear, articulate manner? See Grammar/Style Checklist. 5 pts

**Word Count**

Does the assignment largely meet the word requirement? 5 pts

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## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

### Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google®	Latest	N/A

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Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Chrome™		
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

### Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

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- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
  - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
  - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Brightspace Support**

#### **Need Help?**

#### **Student Support**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

#### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.



#### **System Maintenance**

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

#### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Your instructor is regularly available to assist with your learning and will provide timely (usually 24 hours or less) answers to questions and feedback on assessments. If she will be unable to respond within that period due to a holiday or emergency, she will post an announcement in D2L.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Please note that due to the competency-based nature of this course, in which you have multiple opportunities to achieve a passing (80 points or better) score on any given assessment, extra credit is not available.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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

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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- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination 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 CALENDAR**

The Fall 2018 term begins 8/27/2018 and ends 10/12/2018.

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