



THEA 1310 Intro to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Micah A. McBay, M.S., GAT
Office Location: PAC 108
Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00
University Email Address: mmcbay1@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text:

Experiencing Theatre by Anne Fletcher and Scott Irelan, ISBN 978-1-58510-408-6
Other readings may be provided in class, or through D2L
QR Code Reader App for phone or tablet

Required Viewing:

Somewhere-in-Between

Directed by Christian Casper
Produced in the Main Stage Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
February 25-29 at 8 p.m. and February 30 at 3 p.m.

Constellations

Directed by Micah McBay
Produced in the Black Box Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
April 7-11 at 8 p.m. and April 12 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available for a nominal 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 designed to provide introductory knowledge of the phases of drama, performance, literature, and production procedures.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn fundamental principles, vocabulary, and theories of Western theatre.
2. Students will develop creative capacities through exercises.
3. Students will learn to critically apply course materials to live performances.
4. Students will develop an appreciation for the art and craft of theatre.
5. Students will enhance critical thinking skills through performance analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- In-class exercises and assignments cannot be made up. Please dress comfortably for class, as some of our exercises will be physical. If you are unable to participate due to clothing choices, you will not receive credit for the day.
- You are required to see two plays this semester at TAMU-C. You must turn in a copy of the program, signed by the house manager, in order to receive credit for attendance.
- You will be required to write an analysis of BOTH of the above plays. You will analyze the plays using language acquired through the text and class. A rubric will be provided.
- Please be on time to class and stay for the duration. Students will sign in and sign out for each class.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Play Attendance (5 points each): During the semester you are required to see BOTH TAMUC University Playhouse Productions. The productions are listed above. Please be aware that *Constellations* will be performed in the Black Box with limited seating. It is imperative that you purchase your tickets early to see that show. You will receive credit for attending the performance by having the House Manager sign your program AFTER the play has ended, putting your FULL NAME on the program, and turning it in to me within one week of the closing date of the production.

Play Analysis (10 points each): After seeing a TAMUC production, you are required to write a short (1.5-2 page) analysis of the play. The analysis should be written with standard margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with your name and class in the HEADER section of the paper. The paper should use academic language and writing. The paper should analyze the

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elements of the production using theatrical vocabulary and concepts learned in class and from the text. A rubric will be provided on the D2L and we will go over the paper requirements in class. You CANNOT turn in an analysis paper unless you saw the production. There are no exceptions to this.

Quizzes (5 points each): Over the course of the semester you are required to read the textbook and you will take three separate multiple-choice quizzes online. The information in each quiz will come directly from the textbook AND from lectures in class. Each quiz will open on a Friday and close on Sunday at midnight. You cannot make up quizzes if you do not take them during the window they are open. Each quiz is around 50 questions and is timed.

Partner Scene (20 points): Around the midpoint of the semester, you and a partner from this class will present a short acting scene for the class. A link will be provided on the D2L to help you find a scene to act out, and instruction on acting techniques will occur prior to your performance date. The scene must be fully memorized, staged, and costumed appropriately. Detailed instructions will be given in class, and a rubric is available on D2L.

Playwriting (15 points): Each individual student will write a short play scene. The play must be prepared in the proper playwriting format, should reflect clear thought and care in construction, and should tell a clear story. The play will be between 3 and 5 pages in length. Detailed instructions will be given in class, and a rubric is available on D2L.

Final Project (20 points): Your final semester project will consist of forming groups of 5-6 people and taking on a particular role within a fictional theatre company. Your group will create various artifacts and concept statements for each role. Your group will also present a PowerPoint presentation to the class detailing the work you have done on your play. Half of your grade will reflect your work on the presentation and the other half will reflect your work on your individual role and artifacts. Detailed instructions will be given in class, and a rubric is available on D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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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.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The following is an estimate of the coursework and is subject to change.

DATE	TOPIC	DATE	TOPIC
1/13/20	Intro/First Assignment	3/6/20	Perform Scenes
1/15/20	Intro/First Assignment	SPRING BREAK	
1/17/20	Intro/First Assignment	3/16/20	Scenic Design
1/20/20	NO CLASS/MLK DAY	3/18/20	Making a Ground Plan
1/22/20	What is Theatre?	3/20/20	Costume Design
1/24/20	What is Theatre?	3/23/20	Making a Costume Rendering
1/27/20	Greek Theatre/Poetics	3/25/20	Lighting Design
1/29/20	Ritual in Human History	3/27/20	Making a Light Plot
1/31/20	Theatre History 101	3/30/20	Sound Design
2/3/20	The Playscript/Story Types	4/1/20	Making a Cue Sheet
2/5/20	Formatting a Script	4/3/20	Directing the Play
2/7/20	Analyzing a Script	4/6/20	NO CLASS
2/10/20	Analyzing a Script	4/8/20	Writing a Concept Statement
2/12/20	Acting Basics	4/10/20	Table Read Scripts
2/14/20	Acting Basics	4/13/20	Table Read Scripts
2/17/20	Acting Basics	4/15/20	Select Scripts/Form Groups
2/19/20	Writing About Theatre	4/17/20	Group Work
2/21/20	Rehearse Scenes	4/20/20	Group Work
2/24/19	Rehearse Scenes	4/22/20	Group Work
2/26/20	Rehearse Scenes	4/24/20	Final Presentations
2/28/20	Rehearse Scenes	4/27/20	Final Presentations
3/2/20	Perform Scenes	4/29/20	Final Presentations
3/4/20	Perform Scenes	5/1/20	Final Presentations/Rec

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COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

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. Communicate, communicate, communicate! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check myLeo Online/ask a classmate first. If your question has already been addressed in one of those places, then you will have the answer you need. If your question does not exist, please feel free to email me.

When emailing me: Please make your emails clear and concise, written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. In addition, please follow some common "email etiquette" procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient. Specifically:

- Write a relevant subject line (e.g., "Theatre History question," or "THE 340 meeting request")
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor McBay" or "Hi Micah" or just "Micah")
- Bonus: "meaningless niceties" are never a bad idea!
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. If requesting an appointment, give me times that you are available in the initial email!!! My office hours are posted above.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and sign your name.

Not following these guidelines potentially puts you at the bottom of my list for response time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Arrivals:

To further foster a high level of commitment 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

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of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. The class will begin promptly at 11:00 p.m.! If you arrive after 11:10 a.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. 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. 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.

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.

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.

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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance 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>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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.

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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.

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