



**THE 1310.03E – Introduction to Theatre  
COURSE SYLLABUS : Spring 2020  
MWF 11:00 – 11:50 AM  
PAC #100 (Main Stage Theatre)**

**Instructor:** Courtney Bailey  
**Office:** PAC #108  
**Office Hours:** W 12:00 – 4:00 PM or by appointment  
**Email:** [cbailey14@leomail.tamuc.edu](mailto:cbailey14@leomail.tamuc.edu)

**Supervising Professor:** Michael G. Knight, Jr., Asst. Professor of Theatre Design & Technology; Dept. of Theatre - Head  
**Office:** PAC #101  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Email:** [michael.knight@tamuc.edu](mailto:michael.knight@tamuc.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Required Reading:**

*Experiencing Theatre* by Anne Fletcher and Scott Irelan, ISBN: 978-1585104086

*The Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber (PDF)

\* All assigned PDFs will be uploaded to myLeo Online (D2L) or distributed via email. Additional readings may be provided digitally or distributed in class.

**Required Viewings:**

***Somewhere in Between***

Directed by Christian Casper  
Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at TAMU-C  
February 25 – 29 at 8 PM and March 1 at 3 PM

***Constellations***

Directed by Micah McBay  
Produced in the Studio (Black Box) Theatre by the University Playhouse at TAMU-C  
April 7 – 11 at 8 PM and April 12 at 3 PM

\* You can make ticket reservations by visiting the University Playhouse Box Office from 1 – 5 PM Monday – Friday, calling 903-886-5900, or emailing [playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu](mailto:playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu). Additionally, you may visit the TAMU-C University Playhouse Facebook page and follow posted links to online ticket purchases. Tickets are \$5 for students (with ID). **Seating may be limited for performances, especially productions in the Studio (Black Box) Theatre, so plan accordingly.** To receive credit for attending performances, you must turn in a copy of your program, signed by the House Manager, with your name clearly printed on the front.

### **Course Description:**

A survey of the fields of theatre designed to provide introductory knowledge of dramatic production, performance, and literature. Through instruction on the fundamentals of theatre and practical application of this knowledge to assignments and activities, students will develop the analytical skills required to think, speak, and write critically about theatre.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn fundamental principles, vocabulary, and theories of Western theatre.
2. Students will learn to critically apply course materials to live performances.
3. Students will become more informed, critical audience members.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### **Instructional Methods and Activities:**

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance does not constitute participation. We will conduct in-class exercises and group activities almost every class day throughout the semester. These activities are designed to reinforce topics covered in this course and are hands-on, interactive methods to explore the course material. **In-class exercises and assignments cannot be made up.** Students **MUST** be present and **MUST** participate to receive credit.

**Performance Attendance:** Students are required to attend BOTH University Playhouse productions this semester and present proof of attendance by turning in a copy of their programs, signed by the House Manager, with their names printed clearly on the front. The House Manager will not sign a program for students who arrive late to a performance, leave in the middle of a performance, or are disruptive/inattentive during a performance.

**Performance Reflection Essays:** Students will write two reflective essays on the University Playhouse productions they attend this semester. Students will apply concepts discussed in class to these productions in a paper of approximately 2 pages. Essays must be double spaced, typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and well-organized. I will consider spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure when grading. A prompt and rubric will be distributed for each essay in advance of their due dates.

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will be a short, traditional test (multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions) covering all previous material discussed in the course. Students will be given a study guide prior to the exam.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be a practical, cumulative, and experiential group project in which students will collaborate to apply and present course concepts covered throughout the semester. A prompt and rubric will be distributed prior to the exam.

**Reading Quizzes:** Students will take ten online reading quizzes throughout the course of the semester. **These quizzes will substitute for in-person class meetings** and will cover reading material in the course textbook. Quizzes will be structured in a short, untimed, and open-book format.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is provided at the discretion of the instructor and will be announced in class or via email.

**Grading System and Scale:**

Attendance and Participation	20 points total (20 activities at 1 point per activity)
Reading Quizzes	10 points total (10 quizzes at 1 point per quiz)
Performance Attendance	10 points total (2 performances at 5 points per show)
Performance Reflection Essays	20 points total (2 essays at 10 points per paper)
Midterm Exam	20 points
Final Exam	20 points
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TOTAL POINTS	100 points

100 – 90 points =	A
89 – 80 points =	B
79 – 70 points =	C
69 – 60 points =	D
59 and below =	F

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Working Email Requirement:** Students must have a working email address that they 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 via email.

**myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) Requirement:** Students **must** have access to myLeo Online through their myLeo accounts. There **WILL** be digital assignments that must be submitted through D2L. Additionally, PDFs, study guides, additional readings, and handouts may be uploaded to this site rather than distributed in hard copy form.

**QR Code Reader and Internet Access Requirement:** Attendance for this course will be recorded through QR code scans. In order to sign in and out of class, students must have a smart phone or internet capable device with a QR code reader.

**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 to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the semester. I'm here to help! I am available during my office hours if you would like to meet in person, as well as via email. If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me via email. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

\* If you will be communicating with me via email, please write in clear and complete sentences, using proper grammar and punctuation. Also, **be sure to sign your name**, so that I am aware of who the message is from.

### **Student Resources:**

Department of Theatre  
Performing Arts Center (PAC) 101  
Main Office Phone: 903-886-5346  
<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

**Attendance Policy:** You may accumulate 3 absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an excused absence.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor as soon as possible. **Grades will be dropped half a letter grade for every absence beyond the third.**

**Late Arrivals:** To further foster a high level of commitment, the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students should 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 that of others. If you arrive within the ten-minute grace period, please do so

discreetly in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. You are also expected to stay until you are dismissed from class.

**Cell Phones and Laptops:** While the use of both cell phones and laptops are encouraged in this class for participation in class activities and note taking, they should not be used to check/send messages, access social media, surf the web, or engage in any non-class activity. If I suspect that your cell phones and laptops are being used for other purposes, you will be given an automatic zero for your daily in-class activity grade.

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work.

**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:**

**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>

**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. **Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. 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. 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>

### **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 learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring 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:

<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.

## Class Schedule

Week 1	1/13 1/15 1/17	Introduction to Course/Syllabus Distribution  What Is Theatre?, Activity #1  <b>Reading Quiz #1</b> (over entire syllabus)
Week 2	1/20 1/22 1/24	<b>NO CLASS - MLK Day</b>  What Is Theatre?, Activity #2  <b>Reading Quiz #2</b> (textbook pages viii-8)
Week 3	1/27 1/29 1/31	What Is Theatre?, Activity #3  What Is Theatre?, Activity #4  <b>Reading Quiz #3</b> (textbook pages 8-20)
Week 4	2/3 2/5 2/7	Playwriting and Types of Plays, Activity #5  Playwriting and Types of Plays, Activity #6  <b>Reading Quiz #4</b> (textbook pages 21-37)
Week 5	2/10 2/12 2/14	Designers and the Scenographic Imagination, Act. #7  Designers and the Scenographic Imagination, Act. #8  <b>Reading Quiz #5</b> (textbook pages 38-54)
Week 6	2/17 2/19 2/21	Designers and the Scenographic Imagination, Act. #9  Designers and the Scenographic Imagination, Act. #10  <b>Reading Quiz #6</b> (textbook pages 54- 68)
Week 7	2/24 2/26 2/28	Performer, Director, & Production Dramaturg, Act. #11 <b><i>Somewhere in Between runs from Feb 25-March 1</i></b> Performer, Director, & Production Dramaturg, Act. #12  <b>Reading Quiz #7</b> (textbook pages 69-91)

Week 8	3/2 3/4 3/6	Performer, Director, & Production Dramaturg, Act. #13 <i>Somewhere in Between</i> Discussion <b>Performance Reflection Essay #1 Due</b>
Week 9	3/9 3/11 3/13	<b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b> <b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b> <b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b>
Week 10	3/16 3/18 3/20	Midterm Exam Review <b>Midterm Exam</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>
Week 11	3/23 3/25 3/27	<i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> , Activity #14 <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> , Activity #15 <b>Reading Quiz #8</b> ( <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> script)
Week 12	3/30 4/1 4/3	<i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> , Activity #16 Musical Theatre & <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> , Act. #17 <b>Reading Quiz #9</b> (textbook pages 92-104)
Week 13	4/6 4/8 4/10	Seeing and Writing About Live Theatre, Activity #18 <b><i>Constellations runs April 7-12</i></b> Seeing and Writing About Live Theatre, Activity #19 <b>Reading Quiz #10</b> (textbook pages 105-116)
Week 14	4/13 4/15 4/17	Outreach, Activity #20 <i>Constellations</i> Discussion <b>Performance Reflection Essay #2 Due</b>
Week 15	4/20 4/22	Musical of Choice Musical of Choice



Week 15	4/24	Musical of Choice
Week 16	4/27	Final Exam Review
	4/29	Final Exam Review
	5/1	Final Exam Review
Week 17	5/6	<b>Final Exam</b> from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**\*All dates and assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.\***