



THE1310
Introduction to Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring, 2020

Instructor: Karri Anderson, Adjunct
Office Location: D108, Black Box
Classroom: D108, Black Box
Class Time: MWF 7:55 – 8:40 1st period
Office Hours: M-F 9:36 am – 11:10 am (3rd and 4th periods) by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-3576 x808
School Fax: 903-886-6209
Email: karri.anderson@commerceisd.org or karri.anderson@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text: Many of the scripts that we will read are in the public domain and are readily available online. I will provide the class with copies of any other printed materials that are needed.

Course Description: An exploratory course of the fundamentals of theatre production from the point of view of an audience member and as a member of a production company. Students will experience dramatic literature in several formats, including close reading of play scripts and live performances. Students will analyze and critique those experiences, both in writing and in class discussions.

Objective: The primary purpose of this course is to create educated and engaged audience members. Students who have had a variety theatrical experiences will have a better appreciation for theatre and a better understanding of dramatic literature.

Standard Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking-- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.

Communications-- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

Teamwork-- Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

Social Responsibility-- Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Student Learning Outcomes Specific to This Course: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. understand basic terminology used in theatre,
2. have a historical view of theatrical production,
3. intelligently discuss major theatrical movements,
4. experience, first-hand, the responsibilities of participating in a theatrical production, and
5. demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette during a live theatrical performance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Methodology: This course will be taught and evaluated through lecture, recorded examples of theatrical production, live performances of theatrical production, class discussions, written critiques/reviews, close script reading, various class assignments, midterm and final exams. Assignments and other materials for this class can be found on Google Classroom. I will give you the code the first day of class. Please make use of the Learning Lab located in Gee Library on the TAMU-C campus when preparing your written assignments. They will help you proofread and edit your documents.

The student's final grade will be determined by the following:

- 15% Attendance and participation
- 20% Daily assignments or activities
- 35% Performance-based assessments in the following areas: Theatre History, Directing Styles, Theatrical Design, Theatrical Production
- 5% Mid-term exam – multiple choice
- 20% Attendance of one University Playhouse production (there are two opportunities to view a University Playhouse production this semester) and one other production of your choice for a total of two live theatrical productions during the semester. You are required to submit a critique and a program signed by the house manager for each performance. Guidelines for critiques will be provided in class.
- 5% Final exam – 750-word essay - your choice of topic from a provided list

Note (from Mr. Jim Anderson, TAMU-C):

“When you see a play at the University Playhouse (or in any other playhouse or theatre):

Be polite to the staff. Their job is difficult enough.

Don't put your feet on the seats.

Turn phones and other devices off. An incoming call or text can deafen a person wearing a headset backstage.

After the performance, the House Manager will sign your program or ticket stub.

Write your full name and campus-wide ID on the program or ticket stub and turn it in with your review/critique.”

Grading

A 90%-100% (excellent, punctual work)

B 80%-89% (above average, punctual work)

C 70%-79% (average and/or late work)

D 60%-69% (below average, late work)

F 0%-59% (extremely poor quality or failure to submit assignment)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please let me know if you're are having difficulties completing an assignment or if you don't understand an assignment. I can be contacted by email. karri.anderson@commerceisd.org or karri.anderson@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Technology requirements: You will need to have a smart device that will allow you access to internet while in class.

Access and navigation for classes with online delivery components: We will use Google Drive to exchange information and to collaborate on assignments.

Written work: Please save your work to a flash drive, Google Drive, or another storage device, in addition to sharing it with me in Google Docs or emailing it to me.

Food and drink: No food or drink is permitted in the Main Stage Theatre.

Phones and other devices: Please do not use your electronic devices for personal reasons during instruction time. Occasionally, you may need to use your device for an in-class assignment. If you are unable to make the distinction between class use and personal use of electronic devices, you are not ready for a dual credit course.

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. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Please be courteous and respectful when expressing your opinions. Others are entitled to their opinions and it is possible to challenge an opinion without shouting or calling names.

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 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

Gege Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<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 OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Typically, we will meet MWF. Occasionally, we will need to meet on a Tuesday or Thursday due to scheduling conflicts with high school activities. You will be informed of those changes in advance.

Jan 13 - First day of class

Jan 20 – Holiday

Feb 17 – Student Holiday/Staff Development

Mar 9 - 13 Spring break

Mar 18 - Midterm exam

Mar 20 – Critique #1 due

Apr 15 - Critique #2 due

May 8 - Last class day

May 12 - Final exam day