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**THE 1310.02W INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2021**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Michaela Medlen

Office Hours: Virtual, by appointment only

University Email Address: mmedlen@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University email address

Communication Response Time: Within 1-2 Business Days

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: *Experiencing Theatre* by Anne Fletcher and Scott Ireland
ISBN 978-1-58510-408-6

Software Required:

- Access to D2L via MyLeo
- Word-processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)
- Presentation software (Google Slides, Power Point, Prezi, etc.)

Required Viewing: Online productions performed by the Department of Theatre

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

- Access to video services (Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, Disney+, etc.)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Supplementary readings as necessary provided via D2L

Course Description

This course provides a survey of the fields of theatre, designed to provide an introductory knowledge of the phases of drama, performance, history, literature, and production procedures. This course, and all its components, will be web-based.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn fundamental principles, history, vocabulary, and theories of Western theatre.
2. Students will develop creative capacities through online exercises and discussions.
3. Students will learn to critically apply course materials to live performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are required to login to D2L weekly in order to complete assigned discussions, quizzes, and other assignments.
2. Students are required to attend two productions via the Department of Theatre at TAMUC.
3. Students are required to watch a filmed performance of a play or musical outside of the Department of Theatre.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Students must be able to navigate D2L via MyLeo.
2. Students must be able to use a word processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.) as well as presentation software (Power Point, Prezi, etc.).
3. Students must be able to check their email regularly.

Instructional Methods

1. Attendance: Students must participate in all weekly assignments in order to receive credit for participation for that week.
2. Play Attendance: All students are required to see one of the two plays at TAMUC this semester. Productions will be presented online, for a price of \$5 each. Ticketing

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information will be provided via D2L. Students must provide proof of attendance with the following:

- a. A copy of your ticket receipt (screenshot or email)
 - b. A screenshot of the production as you view it on your computer, iPad, phone, etc.
3. Play Review: Students will write a review of the production they choose to attend at TAMUC.
- a. 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. Anything below 2 pages or significantly above 3 pages will result in a point reduction.
 - b. This is an academic paper, so elements such as spelling, grammar, and scholarly tone will be part of the grade
 - c. An example of a Theatrical Review will be made available via D2L
4. Presentation: Students will be required to find and view a filmed or streamed production outside of TAMUC. Each student will make a presentation (Google slides, Power Point, or comparable) of the production using Aristotle's Six Elements of Theatre.
- a. The instructor will provide a list of possible productions to view via streaming services, DVD/Blu Ray, social media, etc., although students are encouraged to research opportunities as well.
5. Quizzes: There will be a quiz due each week as listed on the course outline. Quizzes will consist of 10 questions related to the unit that week.
6. Discussion Posts: There will be a discussion post due each week as listed on the course outline. In order to receive full credit for the discussion post each week, students must post their discussion **AND** respond to at least two other student's discussion posts. Responses should be at least 3-5 sentences, and include more than simply "I agree," or other similar responses.
7. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, and only with appropriate documentation.
8. Extra credit may be provided at the discretion of the instructor and will be announced via D2L.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Students are encouraged to login multiple times per week in order to participate fully in group discussion, check for updated information, and stay in contact with the instructor and fellow students.
2. Students are encouraged to participate earlier in the week, in order to better facilitate discussions and to avoid potential issues (such as problems with technology, internet issues, etc.).

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3. Students should ensure they have stable, working internet connections in order to fully participate in this web-based class.
4. Communication is key - students should feel free to contact the instructor with any questions, concerns, or to meet any needs necessary. Students are also encouraged to request socially distant meetings (via Zoom, etc.) as needed.

GRADING

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

A = 900 - 1000 Points

B = 800 - 899 Points

C = 700 - 799 Points

D = 600 - 699 Points

F = 599 or Fewer Points

Assessments

Attendance and Participation = 100 Points (total)

Discussion Posts = 195 Points (total) 15 Points (Each)

Play Attendance = 200 Points

Performance Response = 200 Points

Quizzes = 130 Points (total) 10 Points (Each)

Final Presentation = 175 Points

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:

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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>

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.

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

If at any time you feel that you need further instruction or explanation, please feel free to speak with me at your convenience. I have an open-door policy with all students. If you do not feel that

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you are getting what you need please let me know. I cannot help you find a solution if I do not know that there is a problem.

Please observe the following basic email etiquette:

- Informative Subject Line
 - Class name and/or number
 - Topic of discussion
 - Examples
 - Practicum Hours
 - THE 1301 Final Exam
 - Cosplay Question
- Address me by name
 - Michaela is perfectly fine, or Ms. Michaela if you do not feel comfortable calling me by my first name
- Salutation
 - Does not have to be “formal”
 - “Niceties” are always a good idea
 - I hope you are having a nice day
 - I hope you had a great weekend
 - Congrats on being an amazing human being
- Briefly and concisely state what it is you need
 - If you cannot state your needs in a few sentences, consider requesting an appointment
 - If requesting an appointment, please:
 - State the reason for your appointment (I want to discuss my grade; I have questions about...)
 - GIVE YOUR SPECIFIC AVAILABILITY
 - Good idea—I am available Monday 1-3 or Tuesdays after 2:30
 - Bad idea—What works for you? I am free whenever.
- Sign off
 - Does not have to be “formal,” and thank you is always appreciated
 - Give your name
 - Always a good idea to provide CWID, especially
 - if paperwork is involved

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Assignment information (including requirements, due dates, etc.) will be posted in D2L.

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>

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

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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,

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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

Week 1 (1/11-1/16)- Quiz #1 (Syllabus) Due: Saturday, January 16th
Discussion Post #1 Due: Saturday, January 16th

Week 2 (1/18-1/23)- Greek Theatre Unit Opens: Monday, January 18th
Quiz #2 (Greek Theatre) Due: Saturday, January 23rd
Discussion Post #2 Due: Saturday, January 23rd

Week 3 (1/25-1/30)- Medieval Theatre Unit Opens: Monday, January 25th
Quiz #3 (Medieval Theatre) Due: Saturday, January 30th
Discussion Post #3 Due: Saturday, January 30th

Week 4 (2/1-2/6)- Commedia Dell'Arte Unit Opens: Monday, February 1st
Quiz #4 (Commedia Dell'Arte) Due: Saturday, February 6th
Discussion Post #4 Due: Saturday, February 6th

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Week 5 (2/8-2/13)- Elizabethan Unit Opens: Monday, February 8th
Quiz #5 (Elizabethan) Due: Saturday, February 13th
Discussion Post #5 Due: Saturday, February 13th

Week 6 (2/15-/2/20)- Comedy of Manners Unit Opens: Monday, February 15th
Quiz #6 (Comedy of Manners) Due: Saturday, February 20th
Discussion #6 Due: Saturday, February 20th

Week 7 (2/22-2/27)- *Experiencing Theatre* Intro Unit Opens: Monday, February 22nd
Quiz #7 (Chapter 1) Due: Saturday, February 27th
Discussion #7 Due: Saturday, February 27th

Week 8 (3/1-3/6)- *Experiencing Theatre: Exploration One* Unit Opens: Monday, March 1st
Quiz #8 (Chapter 2) Due: Saturday, March 6th
Discussion #8 Due: Saturday, March 6th

Week 9 (3/8-3/13)- *Experiencing Theatre : Exploration Two* Unit Opens: Monday, March 8th
Quiz #9 (Chapter 3) Due: Saturday, March 13th
Discussion #9 Due: Saturday, March 13th

Week 10 (3/15-3/20)- *Experiencing Theatre: Exploration Three* Unit Opens: Monday, March
15th
Quiz #10 Due: Saturday, March 20th
Discussion #10 Due: Saturday, March 20th

Week 11 (3/22-3/27)- *Experiencing Theatre: Exploration Four* Unit Opens: Monday, March
22nd
Quiz #11 Due: Saturday, March 27th
Discussion #11 Due: Saturday, March 27th

Week 12 (3/29-4/3)- *Experiencing Theatre: Exploration Five* Unit Opens: Monday, March 29th
Quiz #12 Due: Saturday, April 3rd
Discussion #12 Due: Saturday, April 3rd

Week 13 (4/5-4/10) *Experiencing Theatre: Exploration Six* Unit Opens: Monday, April 5th
Quiz #13 Due: Saturday, April 10th
Discussion #13 Due: Saturday, April 10th

Week 14: (4/12-4/17): Work on Production Review
PRODUCTION REVIEW DUE: Saturday, April 17th

Week 15: 4/19-4/24 Week off, prepare for finals!

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Week 15: Final Assignment Opens: Saturday, April 24th
Final Presentation Due: Friday, April 30th

TAMUC UNIVERSITY PLAYHOUSE SHOWDATES

Recipe of Life

By: Jaylan Fennell

Directed by: Jaylan Fennell

Show Dates: February 23rd-28th (Live-Streamed performances on Feb. 23rd & 26th)

Chumbox: Stories from the Web

By: Austin Roberts

Directed by: Rebecca Worley

Show Dates: April 13th-18th (Live-Streamed Performances on April 13th & 16th)