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THE 1310.04W. INTRO TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jaylan Mitchell Fennell, BS {Graduate Instructor}
(You can call me Jaylan or Mrs. Fennell)

Office Location: Performing Arts Center Box Office

Office Hours: By appointment only

University Email Address: jmitchell24@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University email address

Communication Response Time: Within one (1) business day

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, literature, and production procedures. This course, and all its components, will be web-based.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn fundamental principles, 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. These will include:** a. Group

Discussions, Quizzes, Movie Assignments, etc.

- i. These will be based on the assigned chapter each week.

b. Individual assignments

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- i. The assignments will consist of you choosing a movie from the assigned list and completing the assignment correlating with the previous weeks chapter.

c. FINAL PROJECT This will be discussed further closer to the due date.

Your final project will be a recorded performance of a monologue or scene of your choosing accompanied by written script work.

- A monologue must be between 1-3 minutes long.
- A scene must be 3-5 minutes long and you must be the main character. (You may perform with a person from your family/home that you live with, and they can be on or off screen.)

You do not have to memorize your monologue/scene, but please know that it is encouraged and if you choose to memorize your piece you will receive

extra credit!

2. **Play Attendance: All students are required to see two plays at TAMUC this semester. Productions will be presented online, for a price of \$5 each. Ticketing 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.

4. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, and only with appropriate documentation. YOU MUST EMAIL ME FOR APPROVAL! 5. 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.

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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.).
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)

Assignments = 250 Points (total)

Play Attendance (x2) = 100 Points (each)

Quizzes = 300 Points (total)

Final Presentation = 150 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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 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
 - Jaylan is perfectly fine, or Mrs. Fennell 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 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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

[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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All Assignments will be Due by Midnight on the Sunday the week they're assigned.

I will post Discussions/Quizzes will be posted no later than Wednesday each week.

The Immersions/Exercises will be done individually due to the course being online, but may be applicable to assignments or discussions.

COURSE OUTLINE

If an assignment is green please choose a movie to watch and apply to the assignment.

**Please use a different movie for each assignment. **

For each discussion you should make a post of original thought based on the question or assignment, and at least 1 reply to another classmate's discussion posting.

Week 1, 1/11 - 1/17

(Introduce Yourself/Discussion/Stage Directions

Week 2, 1/18 - 1/24

Exploration 1 (Discussion/Quiz 1)

Week 3, 1/25 - 1/31

Watch a movie from the list and give 1 example for each of Aristotle's 6 elements.

Week 4 2/1 - 2/7

Exploration 2 (Discussion/Quiz 2)

Week 5, 2/8 - 2/14

Watch a movie from the list and choose 1 character to answer the following questions: What is the character's objective(s)?
What is the character's obstacle(s)?
What action(s) is/are taken to achieve the objective/overcome the obstacle?

Week 6, 2/15 - 2/21

Exploration 3 (Discussion/Quiz 3)

Week 7, 2/22 - 2/28 Show Attendance #1 Extra Credit Discussion

Watch a movie from the list and answer the following design/technical questions: How did the scenic design affect the story/environment? (Mood, Metaphor, Dynamics) How did the costume design affect the characters/story? (Fabrics, Colors, Fit, Mood) How did the lighting/sound design affect the production? (Colors, Mood, Quality) How did the designs affect each other/the overall production? (How/Does it feel cohesive?)

Week 8, 3/1 - 3/7

Exploration 4 (Discussion/Quiz 4)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week 9, 3/8 - 3/14

Watch a movie from the list and answer the following questions based on 1 actor's performance. What does my character want? (How do/does the Objective(s) feed into the Super-Objective?) Give three examples of Gestures the actor uses. Describe how/why it is used/applied. (pg.73) Give an example of, or lack thereof, each Performance Ingredient the actor applied. (pg. 78) Give 1-3 examples of powerful/successful stage pictures the director created.

Week 10, 3/15 - 3/21 Show Attendance #2 Extra Credit Discussion (dates are changing)

Exploration 5 (Quiz 5)

Week 11, 3/22 - 3/28

Watch a movie from the list and use the Important Elements of Criticism and the Basic Performance Guidelines (pgs. 98&99), as well as, the rest of the descriptions of critiques/reviews to write an original and developed critical review of the movie you chose this week. You can also use elements of acting, design, directing, or any other theatrical element we have discussed in the class for your review.

Week 12, 3/29 - 4/4

Exploration 6 (Quiz 6) Last Quiz!

Week 13, 4/5 - 4/11

Make-Up Assignment Week

Make-up Assessment(s) (Schedule with Instructor) Research Monologue/Scene Options

Week 14, 4/12 - 4/18

Monologue/Scene Submission for Final Performance

Watch a movie from the list and create a vision board of how you would promote this production. Please consider Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Press Release, what type of demographic you are targeting, and any type of visual posters, logos, or images for promoting. *PLEASE USE ORIGINAL IDEAS* INSPIRATION vs. IMITATION

Week 15, 4/19 - 4/25

Final Performance/Script Work

EXTRA CREDIT* 10 PTS. TO FINAL GRADE IF YOU'RE MEMORIZED AND OFF-BOOK

[*Please research the movies you choose before watching to ensure you are prepared for the subject matter.*](#)

MOVIE OPTIONS

- *The Princess Bride*
- *The Help*
- *The Greatest Showman*
- *A Knight's Tale*
- *The Patriot*
- *Hamilton*
- *Braveheart*
- *V for Vendetta*
- *Remember The Titans*
- *Snowpiercer*
- *The Wizard of Oz*

- *The Green Mile*
- *Tombstone*
- *Les Miserables*
- *Pride and Prejudice*
- *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile*
- *Clash of The Titans*
- *Little Women*
- *Django Unchained*
- *The Green Book*
- *Zodiac*
- *The Theory of Everything*
- *Tolkien*
- *Burlesque*
- *Miracle*
- *Million Dollar Baby*
- *Seventh Son*
- *Stardust*
- *Mary Poppins*
- *Mary Poppins Returns*
- *Titanic*
- *The Monuments Men*
- *A Time to Kill*
- *42*
- *Forrest Gump*
- *The Notebook*
- *Draft Day*
- *The Highwaymen*
- *Good Will Hunting*
- *Mrs. Doubtfire*
- *Armageddon*
- *What Men Want*
- *Instant Family*
- *A Quiet Place*
- *A Simple Favor*
- *My Best Friend's Wedding*
- *Mamma Mia*
- *A Star is Born*
- *Phantom of The Opera*

- *The Hustle*
- *Knives Out*

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Please don't hesitate to email me!

jmitchell24@leomal.tamuc.edu