



## THEA, 1310. 02E, INTRODUCTION OF THEATRE

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021

MWF 10-10:50am

Location: PAC 100 Main Stage

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Triston P. Pullen, MFA, Adjunct Professor of Theatre

**Office Hours:** M/W/F 11:00-11:50am or by appointment

Office Location: Room #108

**University Email Address:** triston.pullen@tamuc.edu

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Required Textbook:

Theater: The Lively Art, Tenth Edition, Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb. McGraw - Hill, Inc., NY, 2019.

**\*\*All other text will be provided in a PDF format by instructor on Myleo**

#### Required Viewing:

*Addams Family the Musical*

Book by: Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice

Music & Lyrics by: Andrew Lippa

Directed by Duncan Michael

October 19-24

*In the West*

By: 21 Texas Writers

Directed by: Dr. Carrie Klypchak

November 16-21

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

The purpose of Introduction to Theatre is to familiarize students with the basic elements of plays and productions and to help students develop the analytical skills to think, speak and write critically about the theater.

#### Course Ethics and Attendance:

*Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” are valued in this class. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. **A willingness to “give theatre and its many forms a chance” is most appreciated.** It is assumed that students will work cooperatively with one another and all work that is not “original” will be properly credited. See the TAMUC Student’s Guide Handbook for more information on plagiarism. This is a serious offense that can result in separation from

the university. **EVEN if not specifically noted on instructions or prompts for each assignment, plagiarism policies will be strictly enforced.**

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

1. Become a more informed, critical audience member
2. Gain a basic understanding of the elements of dramatic structure and of theatrical production
3. Learn to evaluate the artistic quality of a script and a performance
4. Gain appreciation of how plays reflect the people and cultures that produce them.
5. Gain understanding of the relationship of theater to the other arts and humanities.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Written Tests – 250 points total (2 exams at 125 points each):** There will be one midterm and one final. More information on MyLeo. Midterm will be taken in class and the final will be done online. I have a lot a study day for each so please take advantage and come to class those days and ask any questions you may have.

**Short Reading Quizzes- 250 points (5 Quizzes at 50 points each):** The quizzes will be completed after reading the plays. A pdf of the plays will be provided on MyLeo where the quiz will also be administered. **Quizzes are due the same day they are administer.** The quizzed will be multiple choice with one short answer question.

- *Top Dog Underdog* by Suzan Lori Parks
- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams
- *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevoort

**Theatre Scavenger Hunt- 100 points total (4 Scavenger hunts at 25 points each):** There will be four different assignments for four different weeks. Make sure to follow the instructions on MyLeo. Make sure to use your own words, do not copy and paste from online.

**Written Paper- 100 points total:** 2-3 pages in length. MLA format.

**Classroom Participation- 200 points total:** *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” are valued in this class. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. **I don’t want to have to lecture the whole class, but I can if I need to. I would rather have an open conversation full of questions and discourse about the numerous topics covered in class. Make sure to speak up and share your opinion- you might shed light on something that others may not know or realize.**

**Live Performance: 100 points total (2 at 50 points each):** You are **required** to see two live theatrical productions this semester. Be aware that non-compliance with this requirement may result in a failing grade for the class. **You must turn in program and ticket to get your grade the Monday have the show closes.** We will talk about the performance extensively in class.

**Extra Credit:** No extra credit is offered for the course.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All papers but be written in MLA Format.

**MLA PAPER FORMATTING BASICS**

- Use white 8 ½ x 11” paper.
- Make 1-inch margins on the top, bottom, and sides.
- The first word in every paragraph should be indented one half inch.
- Indent set-off or block quotations one half inch from the left margin.
- Use any type of font that is easy to read, such as Times New Roman. Make sure that italics look different from the regular typeface.
- Use 12-point size.
- Double space the entire research paper, even the Works Cited page.
- Leave one space after periods and other punctuation marks, unless your instructor tells you to leave two spaces.

**Grading System and Scale:**

In class Participation	200 points total
Scavenger Hunts	100 points total (4 at 25 points each)
Quizzes	250 points total (5 at 50 points each)
Live Performance Response Essay	100 points total (2 at 50 points each)
Research Paper	100 points total
Midterm Exam	125 points total
Final Exam	125 points total
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Ranges</b>
A+	990 - 1000
A	910 - 989
A-	900 - 909
B+	890 - 899
B	810 - 889
B-	800 - 809
C+	790 - 799
C	710 - 789
C-	700 - 709
D+	690 - 699
D	610 - 679
D-	600 - 609
F	0 - 599

## 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](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](mailto: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

#### **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. It is not an imposition. Don't be a stranger! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it almost constantly. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office

#### **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>

### COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

You may accumulate three (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 ASAP.

Grades will be dropped in 1/2 letter grade increments for every two class absences beyond three. (Example: Someone with an “A” average who misses class five times will be in the “A-“ range; a seventh absence moves that student down into the “B+” range and so on...)

### **LATE ARRIVALS:**

To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—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 of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain. 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. Further, 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.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

This course adheres strictly to the college’s guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the Student’s Guide Handbook. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. 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.)

### **STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY:**

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**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.

**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.

**A&M-COMMERCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

AUGUST 30	<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Introduction to Class/ Cover Syllabus/ What is theatre?
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SEPTEMBER 1	1	Wednesday	Chapter 2 – The Audience
SEPTEMBER 3	1	Friday	Chapter 7 – Theatre Spaces <b>TOPDOG UNDERDOG QUIZ DUE BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE CLASS.</b>
SEPTEMBER 6	2	Monday	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
SEPTEMBER 8	2	Wednesday	Chapter 3- The Playwright
SEPTEMBER 10	2	Friday	VIDEO: Topdog Diaries
SEPTEMBER 13	3	Monday	Chapter 5- Acting for the Stage
SEPTEMBER 15	3	Wednesday	Chapter 6 - The Director and The Producer
SEPTEMBER 17	3	Friday	Intro to Design – What is Style? Chapter 8- Scenery <b>SET DESIGN “SCAVENGER HUNT” DUE BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20</b>
SEPTEMBER 20	4	Monday	Chapter 9 Costumes <b>COSTUME DESIGN “Scavenger Hunt” DUE BY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup></b>
SEPTEMBER 22	4	Wednesday	Chapter 10 - Lighting and Sound
SEPTEMBER 24	4	Friday	VIDEO: Designers at Work <b>READ THE OEDIPUS REX (SCRIPT IS ON MyLeo) QUIZ DUE BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27 BEFORE CLASS.</b>
SEPTEMBER 27	5	Monday	Greek Theatre
SEPTEMBER 29	5	Wednesday	Greek Theatre Continued
OCTOBER 1	5	Friday	Roman Theatre
OCTOBER 4	6	Monday	Non-Wester Theatre (Egypt and Africa)
OCTOBER 6	6	Wednesday	Non- Wester Theatre (Asian) Chapter 12 – Asian Theatre
OCTOBER 8	6	Friday	Non-Western Theatre (Islamic)
OCTOBER 11	7	Monday	Theatre and Religion/Medieval Theatre
OCTOBER 13	7	Wednesday	Review for Mid-Term in Class
OCTOBER 15	7	Friday	<b>**Take Mid-Term During Class**</b>
OCTOBER 18	8	Monday	Chapter 13 - Renaissance Theatre Video – <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> <b>QUIZ A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Due OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> BEFORE CLASS</b> <b>ADDAMS FAMILY OPENS THIS WEEK- MAKE SURE TO SEE THIS PERFORMANCE.</b>

OCTOBER 20	8	Wednesday	Video – <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
OCTOBER 22	8	Friday	Video- <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
OCTOBER 25	9	Monday	CHAPTER 15 – REALISM AND TENNESSEE WILLIAMS <b>READ CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF QUIZ DUE OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE CLASS</b> <b>TICKET AND PROGRAM DUE FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE GRADE.</b>
OCTOBER 27	9	Wednesday	Tennessee Williams/ <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>
OCTOBER 29	9	Friday	<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> cont. <b>READ WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE QUIZ DUE NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> BEFORE CLASS</b>
NOVEMBER 1	10	Monday	PLAYS OF TODAY Watch <i>Women of Lockerbie</i>
NOVEMBER 3	10	Wednesday	Watch <i>Women of Lockerbie</i>
NOVEMBER 5	10	Friday	Finish <i>Women of Lockerbie</i> Discuss/ Talk about Essay
NOVEMBER 8	11	Monday	Non-Traditional Theatre VIDEO: Non-Traditional Theatre
NOVEMBER 10	11	Wednesday	Chapter 16 - African American Theatre
NOVEMBER 12	11	Friday	VIDEO: FENCES
NOVEMBER 15	12	Monday	VIDEO: FENCES <b>IN THE WEST OPENS THIS WEEK- MAKE SURE TO SEE THE PERFORMANCE</b>
NOVEMBER 17	12	Wednesday	VIDEO: FENCES and Discussion
NOVEMBER 19	12	Friday	<b>ESSAY WORKDAY NO CLASS</b>
NOVEMBER 22	13	Monday	<b>ESSAY WORKDAY WITH TRISTON</b> <b>TICKET AND PROGRAM DUE FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE</b>
NOVEMBER 24	13	Wednesday	THANKSGIVING BREAK
NOVEMBER 26	13	Friday	THANKSGIVING BREAK
NOVEMBER 29	14	Monday	Chapter 15 - Musical Theatre
DECEMBER 1	14	Wednesday	Musical Theatre Cont.
DECEMBER 3	14	Friday	VIDEO: Musical Theatre <b>WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE ESSAY DUE AT START OF CLASS</b>
DECEMBER 6	15	Monday	VIDEO: Musical Theatre
DECEMBER 8	15	Wednesday	VIDEO: Musical Theatre
DECEMBER 10	15	Friday	LAST DAY OF CLASS – Review for Final



DECEMBER 13	16	Monday	<b>STUDY OR TAKE FINAL EXAM</b>
DECEMBER 15	16	Wednesday	<b>STUDY OR TAKE FINAL EXAM</b>
DECEMBER 17	16	Friday	<b>FINAL EXAM live at 5pm. Due by FRIDAY at midnight.</b>

Revised 8/10/2021

**Class Schedule Is Subject to Change! I will never add to the schedule, I will only take things away.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*