



## THE 1310 04E, Intro to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2023

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Patrick Darling

Office Location: TBA

Office Hours: TTh from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

University Email Address: pdarling@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours M-F

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Required Texts

All required readings will be posted on D2L as pdf files or links.

#### Supplementary Text (Not Required)

1. *Experiencing Theatre* by Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Ireland  
ISBN: 978-1-58510-408-6

#### Software Required

1. Access to D2L via MyLeo
2. Basic word processing and presentation software (Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Google Docs, Slides, etc.)

#### Required Performance Viewings

Tickets for both productions may be purchased for \$5 at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dept-of-theatre-texas-am-university-commerce-34067403123>

1. *A Year With Frog and Toad*  
Book by Willie Reale & Music by Robert Reale  
Directed by Jackie Rosenfeld  
**October 10th through 15th**
2. *The Thanksgiving Play*  
By Larissa Fasthorse  
Directed by Angela Vaughn  
**November 14th through 19th**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Course Description**

This course provides an introductory overview of theatre history and the modern production process. In addition to studying theatre, students will actively participate in creating it through multiple class projects geared toward the different aspects of the art.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of what theatre is, how it came to be, and the processes required to create it.
2. Students will analyze scripts and productions representing a variety of genres, time periods, and styles.
3. Students will be directly immersed in theatre through viewings of live performances and participation in class activities.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

The ability to navigate a web browser, the D2L system, and basic word processing software.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be taught in person using D2L to provide additional supplementary material digitally.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

1. Check D2L and your email regularly! These are likely the first places that you will receive important updates regarding class schedule changes and the like.
2. Use this syllabus! Most of the questions you are likely to have about the course schedule can likely be answered by this document, which will always be available to you in its most updated form on D2L.
3. Stay in communication with myself and your fellow classmates! Extenuating circumstances occur. I can always make accommodations for you to be successful as possible in this course but for that to happen I need as much forewarning as possible about emergency situations. Also have the courtesy to inform your classmates of any sudden changes in your schedule when engaged in group work.
4. Conduct yourself with respect to your classmates and instructor, to the course material, and to yourself.

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## GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Grading Categories:

Participation	15%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Play Responses (4)	20%
Activities (5)	25%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

## Assessments

A majority of your grade in this course will be based on the amount of original thought that goes into your work. If an assignment asks for an informed opinion on a production or a script, positive and negative responses are equally valid given that the opinion is supported by critical thought.

The 15% participation grade listed above is determined by overall engagement with the course material, as well as contribution to their groups for assignments that require teamwork.

All other forms of graded work will have detailed rubrics listed on D2L.

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## **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**

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**

I am here to help you learn, and I am happy to help! That being said, I cannot do anything for you until I know what the problem is. If you feel the need to reach out, following some simple guidelines regarding email etiquette will expedite the communication process.

### **Email Policy:**

Please do me the courtesy of checking the syllabus and asking a classmate or two before contacting me with a general question about the course or its schedule. If you still do not have a satisfying answer, feel free to reach out to me.

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**When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise. It is generally advisable to make sure any emails you send to a professor are grammatically correct and sufficiently proofread.

- Write a relevant subject line such as "Intro to Theatre," or "Intro Assignment Question".
- Concisely state what it is you need. If you cannot fit the entirety of your question or concern into a brief email then you may request an appointment.
- If requesting an appointment, please offer your availability in the initial email.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and sign your name.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

**Extra Credit:** Will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Should an opportunity for extra credit be made available, it will be uniformly offered to the entire class.

**Late Work:** If it is possible to make up a late assignment, the work may be turned in with a -5% grade penalty for each day the assignment is late. Keep in mind that some group projects or in-class activities may be impossible to make up at all.

### **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>

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<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:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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

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/>

### **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

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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/rulesProcedure/s/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)

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Aug 28, 30, Sep 1

Intro to Intro to theatre. What is theatre? What we do and why we do it.

Week 2: Sep 4, 6, 8

Introduction to basic theatre terminology and theatre spaces.

**Sep 4th** - Labor Day: No class

Week 3: Sep 11, 13, 15

Origins of theatre. Greek Theatre and Ritual. Mimesis. Greek play introduction (have it read by the 25th).

**Sep 17th** - Quiz #1 due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 4: Sep 18, 20, 22

Aristotle's Six Elements. Theatre History.

Week 5: Sep 25, 27, 29

Theatre History Cont. Greek play discussion. Renaissance play intro (have it read by Oct. 8th)

**Sep 25th** - Greek Play Response due before class.

**Oct 1st** - Quiz #2 due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 6: Oct 2, 4, 6

Theatre History Cont.

Week 7: Oct 9, 11, 13

Wrapping up on Theatre History.

**Oct 9th** - Renaissance Play response due before class.

**Oct 10th through 15th** - *A Year With Frog and Toad*

Week 8: Oct 16, 18, 20

*A Year With Frog and Toad* discussion. Introduction to the production process.

**Oct 16th** - *A Year With Frog and Toad* response due before class.

**Oct 22nd** - Quiz #3 due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 9: Oct 23, 25, 27

Playwriting

**Nov 27th** - Playwriting Activity.

Week 10: Oct 30, Nov 1, 3

Producing and Directing

**Nov 3rd** - Directing Activity.

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Week 11: Nov 6, 8, 10

Designing

**Nov 10th** - Design Activity.

Week 12: Nov 13, 15, 17

Final Project Introduction. Stage management, Production Management, Tech Theatre.

**Nov 17th** - Tech/Management Activity

**Nov 14th through 19th** - *The Thanksgiving Play*

Week 13: Nov 20, 22, 24

*The Thanksgiving Play* discussion.

**Nov 20th** - *The Thanksgiving Play* response due before class.

**Nov 22nd through 24th** - Thanksgiving Break: No class.

Week 14: Nov 27, 29, Dec 1

Acting and Improvisation

**Dec 1st** - Acting Activity

**Dec 3rd** - Quiz #4 due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 15: Dec 4, 6, 8

Improvisation Cont. or Finals Preparation / Pickup days

Final: Dec. 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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