



Course Syllabus: Spring 2024
THE 1310.04
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.; PAC 100

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Klypchak, Professor of Theatre

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Patrick Michael Darling

Office: PAC 129

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 1 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. (and by appointment)

Email Address: Carrie.Klypchak@tamuc.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistant Email Address: pdarling@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Under normal circumstances, response time will be within 24 hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Readings:

All reading materials will be provided in class, via D2L, through links to Open Educational Resources, or available in the library. These will include regular readings regarding the major categories of theatre we will study, as well as play scripts.

Required Viewing:

Students will be required to view at least one of the University Playhouse performances this semester: *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less* or *The Moors*.

Catalog Course Description:

A survey of the fields of theatre activity designed to provide introductory knowledge of all phases of drama, literature, performance, and production procedures

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

1. Understand basic theatre terminologies, positions, and methods.
2. Analyze elements of dramatic texts and theatrical performances.
3. Apply learned theatrical techniques.

**This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments (*tentative as of the posting of this syllabus*)

QUIZZES (25%): There will be five short quizzes given over the course of the semester. Each quiz will count as 5% of your overall grade in the course. My best suggestion is to keep up with your reading, attend class, and take good notes. Make-up quizzes are not normally given and will only be approved in extraordinary situations. In cases of *extreme* emergency (such as hospitalization or a death in the family), you are required to contact me via email *before* the class you must miss in order to negotiate any arrangements, etc. In such a case, you will be expected to provide official documentation for your absence. Please note that contacting me does not necessarily mean that you will be able to make alternate quiz arrangements. It has to be a “legit” emergency like the instances mentioned above. Quizzes will consist of approximately 10-20 multiple choice, matching, true or false, and/or short answer questions and will focus on readings, lectures, classroom activities, handouts, and/or viewed performances, etc. *Note: Late arrivals beware... after the first quiz is handed in, no other quizzes will be distributed in class. In other words, if you are late on a quiz day – you may acquire a zero on your quiz!*

Measures Student Learning Outcome #1.

CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT (15%): The characterization project will be performed from the perspective of a dramatic character selected by the student and approved by the instructor. You will undertake this creative project as if you have been cast as this character in an upcoming production of the show. This project consists of two parts. The first part of this project requires the student to create a characterization collage. The collage should include at least 10 images. The second part of the project consists of a planned and quality oral presentation, during which the student will justify and explain the chosen images. Additional information will be given in class regarding requirements of this assignment at a later date.

Measures Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS (15%): Based on one of the University Playhouse productions you viewed, you will develop a critical analysis focusing on certain elements of the performance. More description will be given for this assignment at a later date.

Measures Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.

GROUP PROJECT (15%): You will be assigned to a group of approximately five students. Each group will meet both in class AND independently of class time to write, develop, and perform before the class a short script (of approximately five to ten minutes in length) that will be adapted from the plot and characters of one or more of the plays the class reads. The grade will be determined by the level of commitment, professionalism, inventiveness, and timeliness displayed by each group. Grades will be assigned on a group and individual basis. The script is to be a scene that might be added to the play – one that does not appear in the script (a different ending, a different beginning, a new scene in the middle, etc.) – and can be funny, sad, tragic, etc. Merely writing, developing and doing this performance, turning in completed elements of the project on time, having your lines perfectly memorized, and being brave enough to stand up in front of everyone gives you a minimum grade of 80% (although a poor evaluation from your fellow group members or failure to turn in assignments will lower this threshold). Additional descriptions, requirements, and due dates for this assignment will be given at a later time.

Measures Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

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PARTICIPATION (15%): *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.*

Participation is vital in this class! This is an interactive environment and students must not only attend, but must also actively contribute to each class. Furthermore, the completion of any miscellaneous homework assignments will also be considered part of your participation grade. There may be quite a few of these short assignments (including evidence of play attendance); they are all important to your success in this course. So please make sure you understand what is expected of you.

Positive, respectful and helpful attitudes are mandatory. *I would like to make this very clear: I will make every effort to treat you with the respect that I believe you deserve. You are also expected to treat your peers and myself with that same respectful attitude.* If I believe that a student is disrespectful, I will ask that person to leave the classroom. In this event, the student will receive a zero for any activities conducted that day in class and receive a zero for their participation grade for the day (no matter how long the student has been in class). Disrespect, rudeness, or negative attitudes will *substantially* lower the student's participation grade. The following are other reasons you would be asked to leave the class and receive a zero for the day's activities: sleeping in class, listening to headphones, reading the newspaper, working on other assignments, coming to class under the influence of any mind-altering substance not prescribed to you by a physician, or otherwise causing disruption or distraction during class (this includes cell phones going off and texting in class – turn them off when you come into the classroom and don't turn them on again until you leave). Finally, it should go without saying that missing a class and/or refusal to participate in any activity or part of an activity during class will result in a substantial and appropriate loss of participation points for the student.

Participation will be calculated daily and reflected upon as a whole at the end of the semester. Under normal circumstances, if you are scheduled to work with a partner(s) on a day you are absent, your participation grade will be reduced double the amount it normally would for an absence. Responsibility to the people you are working with is essential for success in this class: theatre is a *collaborative* art form! *Each student will begin with a mid-passing Participation grade of an 80.* Strong effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole.

Measures Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

FINAL EXAM (15%): You will have one Final Exam in this class at the end of the course. It will be based on materials covered in lectures, readings, class activities, prior quizzes, and plays we read and see. These will utilize an objective (multiple choice, matching, true/false) and/or short answer/essay question format. Under normal circumstances, makeup final exams will not be given.

Measures Student Learning Outcome 1,

GRADING

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

A=90%-100% (Exceptional Quality Work); B=80%-89% (Good Quality Work); C=70%-79% (Average Quality Work); D=60%-69% (Below Average Quality Work); F=0%-59% (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

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Note: Numerical correlations for individual assignments receiving awarded letter grades in this class may be calculated as follows: A 95%; B 85%; C 75%; D 65%.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Leomail:

It is a course expectation that you use your Leomail email address and that you check daily. There will be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

Saving of Assignments:

Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

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

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Please feel free to schedule a meeting with me anytime during the semester. I am here to help! Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Policies and Procedures

Attendance:

Prompt and regular attendance, preparation, and full participation are expected and required in this class. *Students are expected to attend every class meeting, unless they are ill and/or*

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required to quarantine from exposure to a communicable disease. I am very strict about this. You should realize the vital importance of daily student attendance for developing new skills and understanding new material.

I will take roll at the very beginning of each class in order to aid me in calculating your participation grade and tracking your attendance. If you are absent, you are making that choice, and I expect you to accept the consequences graciously and in a mature manner. It is your responsibility to remain informed of class activities if you are absent for any reason.

The formal attendance policy for this class is as follows: Under normal circumstances, you are allowed three emergency absences in this class with no attendance grading penalty (although your participation grade will still be lowered accordingly upon a missed class). Upon the fourth absence, the student's overall grade in the course will be reduced by three points. This three point deduction policy will continue for each subsequent absence. *Due to the mandatory daily interactive nature of this course, upon the sixth absence (regardless of circumstances), the student may automatically dropped from or fail the course.* (Keep up with your absences in this course – this is your responsibility. Do not ask me how many absences you have during the semester; I may not have that information readily available when you need it.

*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link:
<http://www7.tamuc.edu/registrar/attendance.asp>.

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. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. The class will begin promptly at 12:00 p.m.! If you arrive after 12:10 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). 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. An early departure will also significantly reduce your participation grade. *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.*

Submission of Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted in D2L or in hard copy to the instructor (depending on the assignment submission requirement requested by the instructor in class for each individual assignment). While you are welcome to email me any questions that you may have, please understand that under normal circumstances, I cannot accept emailed student work at this time.

Late Work:

Late Written Work/Projects – Late miscellaneous homework counting as part of “participation” will not be accepted. Late written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade each weekday after the assigned due date. This means that if you have to be absent for some reason on the day a written assignment/project is due, you must give your assignment to one of your classmates to hand in for you, or you will receive a grading deduction. All assignments are due within the first ten minutes of the class period unless I specify otherwise. At 12:10 p.m. on the

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day that the assignment is due, your assignment will receive one letter grade reduction in credit; at 12.10 p.m. the following day another letter grade will be reduced, and so on. No late assignments will be accepted after one week past the original due date.

Extra Credit:

As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask. In the *rare* instance that an extra credit opportunity arises, that opportunity will be announced and equally available to all members of the class.

Food, Drink, and Gum:

Please do not bring food or drink into the theatre space where our class meets. As well, gum is never appropriate when engaging in practical performance work/activities.

Cell Phones:

Please turn them off when entering the classroom and leave them off throughout the duration of classes.

Grades of Incomplete:

Under normal circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (X) will not be given in this class.

AI Use in This Class:

Unless specifically announced otherwise for a given assignment (more to come on this!), writing generated, or projects developed by, ChatGPT or any other form of Artificial Intelligence for submission in this class will constitute a violation of Academic Integrity and is not allowed.

Adaptation of Assignments:

Due to the fluid nature of this class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

University-Specific Policies and 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).
<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](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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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>

<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

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.

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>

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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

COURSE OUTLINE (*very tentative as of the posting of this syllabus*)

Week 1:

Introduction to and Expectations of the Course

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Audience: Its Role and Imagination/Self-introductions

Week 2:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Acting: Offstage and in the Past

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Stage Acting Today

Week 3:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Characterization

Analyzing a Play

Week 4:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Characterization

Analyzing a Play

Week 5:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Differences between Theatre and Film

Analyzing a Play

Week 6:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Director and the Producer

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Critic and the Audience

Week 7:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Work of the Playwright

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Creating the World of the Play

Week 8:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Dramatic Forms: Climactic, Episodic, and Others

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Dramatic Characters

Week 9:

Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Tragedy and Other Serious Drama

Analyzing a Play

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Week 10:
Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Comedy and Tragicomedy
Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Analyzing a Play

Week 11:
Group Project Activities

Week 12:
Group Project Activities

Week 13:
Group Project Activities

Week 14:
Lecture/Discussion/Activities – The Work of the Designers

Week 15:
Lecture/Discussion/Activities – Musical Theatre

Week 16:
Final Exam