



THE 547-01
Documentary Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Office Location:	PAC 128
Office Hours:	available to Zoom by appointment
University Email Address:	Jackie.Rosenfeld@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	E-mail Communication
Response Time:	Mon-Fri within 24 hours

“I don’t care about realism—I care about reality.”
-Augusto Boal

Course Description

This course explores playwrights, plays and theatre companies that create docudrama — theatre pieces based on a documents, interviews, and texts in the public record. Unlike written texts or edited films, Documentary Theatre offers a multi-perspective and three-dimensional way into understanding real life experiences in depth through live performances by performers making use of different dramatic expressive means. In this course, students will explore different models of documentary theatre, focusing on the relationship amongst the Form, the Purpose and the Content.

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings
You may acquire these materials from the campus bookstore or an online retailer.

Textbook(s) Required:
Instructor will provide course pack for reading.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Required Play Readings or Viewings or Listenings (provided by instructor):

I Am My Own Wife by Douglas Wright

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman

Notes from the Field by Anna Deveare Smith

Hafsat Abiola by Anna Deveare Smith

Excerpts from *Flying In the Face of God* by Cade M. Sikora

What the Constitution Means to Me by Heidi Schrek

Revival by Bobby Britton

Software Required: Microsoft Word or other word processing software. All documents must be submitted as .pdf or .doc(x).

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be understand the process both creative and legal of creating Documentary Theatre.
2. The student will be able to participate as a professional in presentations and feedback with both their own and other students' works.
3. The student will be able to complete research for Documentary Theatre.
4. The student will be able to write a short proposal for and draft of Documentary Theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have access to a computer and the ability to use Microsoft Word or other word processing software. Students must also be familiar with how to use the D2L Brightspace platform including uploading documents to Dropbox as .pdfs. Students must be able to use Power Point or Google Slides to create an effective presentation.

Instructional Methods

Students will be graded on a series of reading selections, class projects, practical application of the knowledge that they have learned, the completion of a draft of work about or using the principals of Documentary Theatre, as well as posted class discussion and exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared. Read what needs to be read. Write what needs to be written.
3. Participate. There is a great deal of exciting discussion in this course, and it will be even more exciting with your ideas.
4. Check your school e-mail regularly.
5. Be respectful of your instructor, your classmates, and yourself.

GRADING

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

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A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Play Reading/Viewing Responses	40%
Discussion Board	30%
Semester Project	30%

Assessments

Discussion Board: Most weeks there will be a discussion topic posted covering the reading and viewing material. Students will create their own post and reply to two classmates for topic. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Play Reading/Viewing Responses: Students will read and watch a number of plays over the course of the semester. Students will write a 900 word response essay on each. More details will be provided in class. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Semester Project: Students will choose from a selection of options for a semester project. All projects will be research focused and may include focus on a theatre company, a particular piece of Documentary Theatre, or the creation of a Documentary Theatre piece. Further instructions will be given in class. If you would like to use this course as a Creative option, you will need to do the creation of a Documentary Theatre piece (in script form.)

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I welcome visits during my office hours and am always happy to make appointments during a time that works best for both the student and I. I don't believe in dumb questions, though I do believe often times the syllabus has not been checked before some questions are asked. If you think it might be on there (a due date or a class policy) check there first. Otherwise feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office and/or Zoom Office Hours. Monday through Friday I will respond to e-mails with 24 hours.

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

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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

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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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

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>

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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>

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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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

AI use policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.Ro.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.Ro.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE CALENDAR

TBD

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