



**THE 340: US HISTORY OF THEATRE
I COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2024**

T/TR 2-3:15 p.m.

PAC 112

Instructor: Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA

Office Location: Performing Arts Center #128

Office Hours: M 2-4 p.m., T. 3:30-5 p.m.; W 3-4 p.m. or by appointment

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Communication Response Time: M-F within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Living Theatre: History of Theatre, Edwin Wilson & Alvin Goldfarb (6th edition preferable)

PDF* scripts TBD

Shakespeare comedy of your choice.

Hand-Outs Distributed in Class and/or posted online

*All PDF texts will be provided for you by your instructor

Course Description:

Detailed study of the development of all phases of theatre art and drama from its origins to English Renaissance theatre. Includes study of theatre conventions, plays, and major dramatic movements.

Prerequisite:

THE 1310–Introduction to the Theatre or permission of the instructor.

Course Introduction:

It has been said that theatre prior to the Renaissance (and the advent of perspective) was altogether presentational. The conceptual framework for this semester revolves around this notion coupled with ideas of comedy, culture, and power. Of course, socio-political conditions must be studied and related to the theatres of their times. This semester's theme will be cultural milieu and perspectives and the ways in which theatre speaks back to power.

Class Procedures and Policies

School of Theatre Attendance Policy: A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories and other activities for which a student is registered or assigned.

It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health family emergencies, student working the University Series, and other situations of similar importance. Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor or physician involved upon the first day of the student's return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university's public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After that every unexcused will drop your final grade by one a half letter grade.

In the case of missed classes, the student will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.

Class Rules:

1. No cellphones or laptops to be used during class without prior consent from instructor
2. Sleeping students will be counted absent.
3. Respect: Your instructor and guests, your classmates, yourself

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of theatrical forms and styles of production across cultures and centuries.
2. Apply theories and terminology to discussions on theatre
3. Develop skills necessary to think and write critically and clearly about theatre history and theatre practices.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Participation (15%. total): As stated above, attendance does not constitute participation. We will conduct in-class exercises almost every day. These exercises are used to focus your attention on the material offered in the course and are hands-on, interactive methods to explore the material. You MUST be present and you MUST participate to receive credit.

Quizzes (25% total): Our synthesis of material will be tested through quizzes for each era we study. They will cover the text book chapters and material from in class lectures.

Mid-term Exam (15%.): Your midterm will cover information from Greek Theatre to Medieval Theatre and will pull from the bank of questions created for your quizzes. You will take this exam via D2L (MyLeo Online). Once you begin the exam, you will have exactly 1 hour to complete the exam.

Group Reading Presentation (2 @ 10%. each = 20%. total): Over the course of the semester, your group will lead two discussions over assigned readings, as well as provide supplementary material in the form of visual aids or activities. Each presentation should last approximately 15-20 minutes. You are responsible for leading and facilitating the class discussion – not just summarizing points and lecturing to the class. You should plan your presentation very carefully as you are developing a short lesson plan (shorter presentations will receive substantial grade deductions.) You should provide the class with a handout or study guide (uploaded to D2L prior to your presentation).

You must also come prepared with questions and topics to stimulate class discussion. One of the goals of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to hone your presentation skills. Be imaginative in your presentational strategies, including audiovisual material, activities, etc. You will be graded on the content of your presentation/handout, the structure/construction of your presentation/handout, ability to lead class discussion effectively, ability to field your peers' questions, and the overall professionalism/preparedness exhibited.

Final Research Presentation (25%): You will be required to facilitate a well-researched, detailed presentation on a topic of your own selection (a theatre practitioner, playwright, or historical movement NOT covered/discussed in class). This includes: 1) reading and relating scripts or other foundational materials/documents to the concepts at hand; 2) finding appropriate sources to share with the class; 4) sharing visual aids and leading the class discussion. This presentation must include web addresses and bibliographical material for sources utilized in preparing it so each of us may benefit later. Your research should utilize both primary and secondary resources. A primary source is anything that the artist created (including quotations from the artist). A secondary source is anything that someone else has written about the artist or their art. Avoid generalized internet sources such as *Encarta* and *Wikipedia* because the information therein is often inaccurate. You should provide the class with a handout or study guide (uploaded to our Google Drive prior to your presentation). This handout must include web addresses and bibliographical material for sources utilized in preparing it. Plan on actively engaging us for about 10-15 minutes. Please plan all elements of your presentation carefully and offer it to the class in a formal, well-rehearsed manner. You will be graded on the content and construction of your material, your preparedness, your ability to knowledgeably respond to questions from the audience, and the professionalism exhibited in your formal presentation and as an audience member.

Grading Breakdown:

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

In-Class Exercises	15 %	100-90 =	A
Quizzes	25 %.	89-80=	B
Mid-Term	15 %	79-70=	C
Reading Presentations	20 %	69-60=	D
Final Presentation	25 %	59 and below=	F
Total	100%		

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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.

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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. Refer to the One Sheet for the course for various ways to be in contact with me.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first. If your question has already been addressed in one of those places, then you will have the answer you need. If your question does not exist, please feel free to email me. I will respond with 24 hours Mon – Fri.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

You may accumulate two (2) absences before any penalty occurs. There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every class absences beyond the first two absences. Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. I will work to support you getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Late Arrivals:

The class will begin promptly at 2:05p.m. If you arrive after 2:15 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. 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. 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. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

Late Work:

Late work is handled on a case by case basis. If you need an extension for an assignment you must request the extension (including the reason why you need it) no less than 24 hours before it is due.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

Diversity:

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated.

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.

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.

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>

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/13s>

[tudents/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>

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

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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.

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 in Courses (Draft)

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.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TBD