



**THE 511: DRAMATIC THEORY
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2024
MONDAY 4:30 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.
PAC #112**

Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #105
Office Hours: M 2-4 p.m., T/R 9:30-10:30 a.m.; W 12:30-2:30. or by appointment
University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@tamuc.edu
Communication Response Time: M-F within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks:

Theatre Theory Theatre - ed. Daniel Gerould
Theory/Theatre: An Introduction, 3rd ed. - Mark Fortier
Oedipus the King and Antigone - Sophocles, trans. Peter Arnott
Le Cid and The Liar - Pierre Corneille, trans. Richard Wilbur
Six Plays of Strindberg - trans. by Elizabeth Sprigge
The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat As Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade (otherwise known as: *Marat/Sade*) - Peter Weiss
Hand-outs, journal articles, scripts, etc. Provided in class, via email or on D2L

STRONGLY Recommended Text:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 9th ed.

Course Description:

Studies of the major documents in the evolution of dramatic theory, from classical foundations through major movements to contemporary criticism.

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

1. Recognize, identify, and differentiate dramatic critical/theoretical ideas.
2. Demonstrate appropriate interpretation of standard critical/theoretical literature utilizing a vocabulary specific to material covered in the course.
3. Apply critical theory with assurance and to write persuasive, theoretically grounded analyses that add to critical conversation.
4. Synthesize academic research into cohesive scholarly writing and oral presentation.

Course Objectives:

To introduce students to (or reacquaint them with) major critical/theoretical thinkers who have influenced ideas about theatre. To gain a more complete understanding of past critical theory and to grasp the ramifications of its interpretation and application to both historical and contemporary theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Talking Points (12 @ 2.5 pts = 30 pts.): Each student will complete lucid and cogent talking points for each class meeting. These can be in whatever format you choose (bullet points usually work best) but should be questions and/or comments (anything that can assist with a class discussion) that struck you while reading.

Application Papers (5 @ 5 pts. = 25 pts. total): Students will submit 5 short papers that apply the theoretical underpinnings of our readings to plays of the period (*Antigone*, *Le Cid*, *Miss Julie*, *The Dream Play*, and *Marat/Sade*). You will need to focus on how the ideas set forth in the critical/theoretical texts work (or do not work) as applied to the play. Papers should "cut to the chase," focus on/explore a single aspect of the texts/plays, and should cite both actions and lines from the plays and theoretical/critical texts. Papers should be approx. 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced, 12 pt. font (or whatever your default font/size is), well-organized (complete sentences, full paragraphs). I will consider spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure in the grading. Students will need to have access to their papers for in-class discussions.

Abstract (10 pts): Students will submit a short (250-300 word) abstract that summarizes their paper topic and the critical lens(es) they will use. We will discuss how to write an abstract in class.

Rough Draft (15 pts): Students must turn in a rough draft of their paper. Rough drafts need not have formal "scholarly apparatus" as in proper formatting of Endnotes and Works Cited, **but be forewarned**. These are not to be slap-dash efforts. These must be coherent, fully formed papers, 10-15 pages in length. They must be well-organized and draw a conclusion. You have to give me a paper that is ready for editorial comments, not stream-of-consciousness. PLAN AHEAD.

Polished Paper (20 pts): Each student will turn in a conference length paper (10-15 pages) analyzing a particular performance (**note:** performance does not necessarily denote "traditional" theater) or play, applying a theoretical lens(es)/concepts covered in class (**note:** concepts from *The Poetics* through Brecht & Artaud are not included in these options; you **must** use those from Boal, Soyinka, and Havel onward. You may, however, use concepts covered in the *Theatre Theory Theatre* text *not* covered in class - ie: Asian theatre practitioners such as Bharata or Zeami).

Papers must "cut to the chase" and demonstrate what, using the material we have studied, you can add to critical conversation. DO NOT spend a lot of time introducing or explaining your critical lens. Best papers will incorporate contemporary critical theory, give the critical history of the performance/play, and provide an original argument on this topic. This project is to familiarize students with the research process and to prepare them for future, more extensive research.

During the final exam period, students will present part (**12-15 minutes**) of the final draft of their research papers. This means you will need to cut your paper down to c. 7-8 pages/talk us through your paper in a "scholarly" fashion. We will approach this final presentation in the manner of an academic scholarly panel.

Grading:

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

90-100 =	A
80-89=	B
70-79=	C
60-69=	D
59 and below=	F

Please note: A grade of "A" will not be assigned to an individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments, regardless of average.

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

My Personal Policy:

Please keep in mind that I am a human. I have a family. As such, please see below for my boundaries so that I may maintain my own self-care yet still be available for you as my student:

- You may email me at any point for guidance, questions, etc. I will respond within 24 hours between the hours of **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
 - General course-specific questions: **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first.** If your question has already been addressed, then you will have the answer you need.
 - **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise. In addition, please follow some common “email etiquette” procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient. Specifically:
 - Write a relevant subject line (ie: “Directing class question,”)
 - Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
 - Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, schedule an appointment (see below)
 - **Sign your name**
- I will **NOT** check email on the weekends, which means I will respond Monday morning.
- If you need to ask me an **URGENT** question regarding class at *night*, you may text me. Note, however, that I will **only respond between the hours of 5-8 p.m.**
- If you need me outside of the student/teacher relationship, please text me. I will respond (via text or phone call) as soon as I can.

Office Hours & Appointments:

If I am in my office & the door is open, feel free to visit me during my office hours. Scheduling an in-person or Zoom appointment in advance, however, is preferred. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code below or go to: <https://forms.gle/Mo7oHKWRDeFZF8N8A>.



COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory and grades will be lowered ½ letter grade per absence. That being said, I do understand that there are unavoidable, *emergency* situations in life. You are allowed one *emergency* absence in this course with no attendance grading penalty (although you are still responsible for all work during said 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 (in person) 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 4:30 p.m.! If you arrive late, please enter the space discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. 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 while in class. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. Laptops should only be used for class purposes.

Late Work:

Under normal circumstances, I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask.

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>

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>

<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.

Mental Health

Please make sure that you are taking care of yourself, not just with the work in this class, but also balancing what is happening in your life. Know that there are people willing to listen and help if needed. If you or someone you care about is in need of any assistance, please reach out to me or use the following resources:

- 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
- The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app or go to

<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html> and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

- Crisis Text Line: Text “MHFA” to 741741
- Lifeline Crisis Chat: www.crisischat.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
 - Main Number: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
 - Spanish: 1-888-628-9454
 - TTY (teletypewriter): Preferred relay service or daily 711 then 1-800-799-4889

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

Reading and assignments are due on the days on which they are listed below. All written assignments are due via email in either a Word doc attachment or shared as a Google Doc. DO NOT send .pdfs & make sure you make me an editor if submitting Google Docs. Bring all appropriate texts to class!

**WEEK ONE
AUDITIONS 8/29**

Aug 26 Introduction to course & assignments
 Tips for reading the Poetics & preparing "Talking Points"
Reading: Gerould, Introduction (pp. 11-42)
 Discussion of reading: Why Theory?

WEEK TWO

Sept 2 **LABOR DAY - NO CLASS**

WEEK THREE

Sept 9 **Reading:** Aristotle, *Poetics* (Gerould, pp. 43-67 AND/OR <https://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.1.1.html>) & *Antigone*
Talking Points #1 due
 Discuss reading and Application Papers

WEEK FOUR**DoT Production Student Showcase 9/20-22**

Sept 16 **Application Paper #1** (*Poetics* and *Antigone*); discuss
Reading: Castelvetro and Corneille (Gerould, pp. 108-116, 153-167) & *Le Cid*
Talking Points #2 due

WEEK FIVE**TxETA CONFERENCE 9/25-28**

Sept 23 **Application Paper #2** (The Neoclassicists and *Le Cid*); discuss
Reading: Zola and Strindberg (Gerould, pp. 351-380) & *Miss Julie* (in Sprigge)
Talking Points #3 due

WEEK SIX

Sept 30 **Application Paper #3** (The Naturalists and *Miss Julie*); discuss
Reading: Maeterlinck, Craig, and Meyerhold (Gerould, pp. 381-398, 406-418) & *The Dream Play* (in Sprigge)
Talking Points #4 due

WEEK SEVEN

Oct 7 **Application Paper #4** (The Antirealists and *The Dream Play*); discuss
Reading: Artaud & Brecht (Gerould, pp. 433-461) & *Marat/Sade*
Talking Points #5 due

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 14 **Paper topics due!** Discuss. You will need to plan ahead and at least skim the last of the Gerould readings & Fortier readings
Application Paper #5 (Artaud, Brecht and *Marat/Sade*); discuss
Reading: Boal, Soyinka, & Havel (Gerould, pp. 462-482)
Talking Points #6 due

WEEK NINE

Oct 21 **Reading:** Fortier, Introduction - "Theatre, Life and Language" beginning through "Phenomenology" (pp. 1-46)
Talking Points #7 due

WEEK TEN

Oct 28 **Abstracts for papers due!** Bring copies to class to distribute and share aloud.

Reading: Fortier, "Theatre, Life and Language," "Post-structuralism and deconstruction" (pp. 46-64)

Talking Points #8 due

WEEK ELEVEN

Nov 4 **Reading:** Fortier, "Subjectivity and theatre," beginning through "Feminism: Later Developments" (pp. 65-98)

Talking Points #9 due

WEEK TWELVE

Nov 11 **Reading:** Fortier, "Subjectivity and theatre," "Queer theory" through end of chapter (pp. 98-123)

Talking Points #10 due

WEEK THIRTEEN

DoT Production *Stuart Little* 9/19-24

Nov 18 **Reading:** Fortier, "World and Theatre," beginning through "Postmodern theory" (pp. 124-164)

Talking Points #11 due

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 25 **Rough Drafts of papers due via email!**

Reading: Fortier, "World and Theatre," "Post-colonial theory" through "Epilogue" (pp. 164-205)

Talking Points #12 due

THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/28-12/1

WEEK FIFTEEN

Dec 2

Discuss Final

Discuss papers (bring copies of rough drafts to class!)

Wrap-up & Review

WEEK SIXTEEN

Final: Monday, 12/9, 4:30-7:10