THE 511.01W Dramatic Theory
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

Instructor: Andrea Williams
Office Location: PAC 107
Office Hours: M/W 10am-11am, Tuesday 11am-1pm, or by appointment
University Email Address: Andrea.Williams@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**: e-mail**
Communication Response Time: M-8:00 am through F- 5:00pm within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text & Materials:

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

Recommended Texts:
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

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

Discussion Posts (10 @ 3 pts = 30 pts.): Each student will post and respond to fellow students posts on regularly posted discussion questions on d2l.

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.

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.

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 should not to be stream of conscious/last minute efforts. These must be coherent, fully formed papers, 12-15 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. 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. In fact, TRY not to even name it. 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.

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

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

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:
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.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please reach out to me. I am always available by email. Please communicate, I can't help if I don't know there's an issue or a question.

Email Policy:
Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check myLeo Online/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.
 When emailing me: Please make your emails clear and concise, written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. 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 (e.g., "Dramatic Theory" question," or "THE 511 meeting request")
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Williams" or "Hi Andrea" or just "Andrea")
- Bonus: "meaningless niceties" are never a bad idea!
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. **If requesting an appointment**, give me times that you are available **in the initial email!!!** It helps things go faster if I have your availability to compare to mine.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and **sign your name**.

Not following these guidelines potentially puts you at the bottom of my list for response time.

Also please note, just because you can find me via Facebook messenger that does not make it an appropriate communication tool for class. All class and course communication that happens electronically must happen via my tamuc.edu e-mail.

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

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Late Work:
Only accepted at the discretion of the instructor

Extra Credit:
Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

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 Procedures 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

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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

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.

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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 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.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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