



## THE 1310 Honors Intro to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

Instructor: Andrea Williams

Office Location: PAC 107

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am, Tuesday 11:00am-1:00pm

University Email Address: Andrea.Williams@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **e-mail**

Communication Response Time: M-8:00 am through F- 4:00pm within 24 hours

### COURSE INFORMATION

**Software Required:** Microsoft Office/Google Docs and Slides (or a comparable office documents program), a web browser, e-mail,

**Required Text:**

*Oedipus* by Sophocles (pdf provided)

*Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (pdf provided)

**Recommended Text:**

*Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare (pdf provided)

**Required Semester Viewing:**

Student Showcase: An Evening of Shorts

Directed and Designed by TAMUC students

September 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Stewart Little* Adapted by Joseph Robinette, based on the book by E.B. White

Directed by Rebecca Worley

November 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

Our ticketing is done entirely through Eventbrite. Our page is located at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dept-of-theatre-texas-aampm-university-commerce-34067403123>, and we can be found via the Eventbrite app as well. You can follow our

Eventbrite page for immediate updates when tickets go on sale.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Course Description**

Introduction to Theatre gives students an overview of what makes theatre. Students learn about not just the types of the drama that exists but the many and varied roles to be found within the theatre.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify and differentiate genres and styles of theatre, placing them in their historical context
2. Discuss and analyze how theatrical performance elements come together
3. Have an understanding of how theatre is important and can be used
4. Complete a basic play analysis
5. Learn to think and write analytically about a production.
6. Gain an understanding of the global and historical influence of theatre on society.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

This class will utilize a combination of papers, presentations and quizzes for assessment. Access to d2l and document writing/slide making programs is needed.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be taught in person utilizing d2l

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

In addition to the book, there will handouts made available on d2l as needed over the course of the semester. It is expected that you read them. All assignments will be available through d2l and that is also where I expect assignments to be turned in. If you experience difficulty with that, please let me know. Any changes to the calendar will be announced in class and updated on d2l. Check d2l regularly for assignments and updates.

Assignments:

Unit Quizzes (4)	25-30 pts (ea)
Play quizzes (3)	10 pts (ea)
Script Analysis paper	30 pts
“Things to Think about” (15)	5 pts (ea)
Dramatic Structure project	10 pts

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Production Concept group project	50 pts
Design group project	50 pts
Production Response papers (2)	40 pts (20 pts. ea)
Final Paper	75 pts

Total Points: 460-470 pts

## **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

### **Assessments**

You will be graded on the timeliness and thoroughness of your work. In group projects you will be graded on your contribution as well as the project as a whole, it is possible for people within in a group to get different grades. Papers should be proofread and done in essay format. I do not require MLA formatting (but feel free to use it if you want) but your papers should be clear and well structured. Remember this is a theatre class so feel free to get creative on your projects.

A grade of "A" will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments. (i.e. Attendance at both departmental productions) regardless of average.

Assignments that are not turned in physically during class, must be turned in via d2l unless otherwise stated.

## **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:

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[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](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](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](mailto: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

### 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., "Intro question," or "THE 1310 meeting request")
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor\* Williams" or "Hi Andrea" or just "Andrea") \*Please note - I do not have a Ph.D, so I am not Dr. Williams
- 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

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- 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.**

### **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**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

**Attendance:** You are allowed 3 unexcused absences after that your grade will drop by one full letter for every unexcused absence.

**Cell Phones:** Please turn off all cell phones during class. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the class.

**Late Work:** Will only accepted at the discretion of the instructor. If you regularly attend and participate in class, I am more likely to accept occasional late work.

**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).  
<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>

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## **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>

## **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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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## **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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **AI Use in Courses**

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.

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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.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR\***

Week 1 (Aug 26<sup>th</sup>-Aug 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Introduction, What is Theatre, Role of Audience

Week 2 (Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)  
\*NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> – LABOR DAY  
Dramatic structure and Dramatic Character

Week 3 (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>)  
Geek Theatre, Oedipus Read by Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

Week 4 (Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>)  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Script Analysis Paper due  
Medieval Theatre

Week 5 (Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>)  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Response Paper Due  
Renaissance Theatre, Shakespeare

Week 6 (Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct 4<sup>th</sup>)  
*Much Ado About Nothing*, Director/Producer, Production Concept

Week 7 (Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>)  
work on Group project

Week 8 (Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>)  
Presentations of Group Project

Week 9 (Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Scenic, Costume, Lighting & Sound Design

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Week 10 (Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> -Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>)

How to do Design Research, Modern Theatre, Read Raisin in Sun by Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Week 11 (Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)

Work on Design Group Project

Week 12 (Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>)

Design Project presentations

Week 13 (Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Contemporary Theatre, Global Theatre, Musicals

Week 14 (Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Nov 29<sup>th</sup>)

\*NO CLASS NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> =THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – *Stewart Little* Response Paper due

Week 15 (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)

Course wrap up

Week 16 – FINALS!

**The Final Paper is due Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> by Noon.**

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