



THE 1310 Intro to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Donna Deverell, MFA

Office Location: Performing Arts Center 104

Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and by appointment

University Email Address: donna.deverell@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within two (2) business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: There is no textbook requirement for this class

Software Required:

- Access to D2L via MyLeo
- Access to word processing app (Word, Google Docs, etc.)
- Access to Digital Theatre Plus

Required Materials:

- Tickets to both productions at University Playhouse (ticketing information will be available via D2L)

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn fundamental principles, vocabulary, and theories of Western theatre.
2. Students will develop creative capacities through exercises.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. Students will learn to think critically and apply course materials to live performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Students must be able to navigate D2L via MyLeo.
2. Students must be able to utilize word processing app (Word, Google Docs, etc.)
3. Must be able to access Digital Theatre Plus online

Instructional Methods

1. This is a practical class and will be taught face-to-face, with some online components.
2. Students must be on time and stay for the duration of class. Students will sign into and out of class using the QR code provided. In-class exercises and assignments cannot be made up. Students should sit on the first few rows of the theatre.
3. Assignment parameters will be discussed in class as well as posted to D2L.
4. Students are required to see two production this semester, as presented by the Department of Theatre. You must sign in to these performances using the QR code in the lobby to receive credit.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Attendance AND participation are required. *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Promptness, attendance, and attentiveness are valued in this class. If you are not actively participating in work, you will not receive credit. Students are allowed three (3) absences. Each absence beyond the allowed three will result in five (5) points taken from the final grade.
2. All portions of each assignment must be completed to receive credit.
3. Communication is key. Students should feel free to contact the instructor with any questions, concerns, or to meet any individual needs.

GRADING

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 90% and Up

B = 80% - 89%

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C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessments

- Assignments/Quizzes – 40% (total)
- Play Attendance – 30% (total)
- Play Analysis – 30% (total)

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 2 – Labor Day, no class
- September 20-22 – *Collaborative Showcase* performances
- November 20-24 – *Stuart Little* performances
- November 25-29 – Thanksgiving Break, no class

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.

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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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If at any time you need further instruction, explanation, or assistance, feel free to speak with me at your convenience. I have an open-door policy with all students. If you do not feel that you are getting what you need, please let me know. I cannot help you find a solution if I do not know there is a problem.

Please observe the following basic email etiquette:

- Informative subject line
 - Class name and/or number
 - Topic of discussion
 - Good ideas
 - Practicum Hours
 - MWF Intro Quiz
 - Cosplay Question
 - Bad ideas
 - Question
 - (No Subject Line)
- Address me by name
 - Donna is preferable. Ms. Donna is fine if you don't feel comfortable using only my first name.
- Salutation
 - Does not have to be "formal"
 - A simple "Good morning" or "Hello" is fine
 - "Niceties" are always a good idea
 - "I hope you're having a nice day."

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- “I trust you had a great weekend.”
 - “Congrats on being so awesome.”
- BRIEFLY AND CONCISELY state what you need
 - If you cannot express your needs a few sentences, consider requesting an appointment.
 - If requesting an appointment, PLEASE:
 - State the reason
 - “I would like to discuss my grade.”
 - “I have a question about XYZ”
 - GIVE YOUR SPECIFIC AVAILABILITY
 - Good idea
 - “I am available Monday 1-3, Tuesday after 2:30, and Wednesday for an hour after our class.”
 - Bad idea
 - “What works for you?”
 - “I’m free whenever.”
 - At least one (1) business days’ notice
 - Good idea
 - “I’m available this afternoon after 2:00, but I understand that is very short notice. I will be available tomorrow at...”
 - Bad idea
 - “Can I come by after class in an hour?”
- Sign off
 - Does not have to be “formal”
 - A “thank you” is always appreciated
 - Give your name
 - Always a good idea to provide CWID, especially if paperwork is involved

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

1. Assignment information (including requirements, due dates, etc.) will be posted in D2L.
2. Acceptance of late work is 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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](#)

<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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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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.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Week 1	8/26 – 8/30	Introduction/Syllabus What is Theatre?
Week 2	9/2 – 9/6	Aristotle’s Guide to Pleasure September 2 – NO CLASS
Week 3	9/9 – 9/13	Dramatic Genres Theatrical Styles
Week 4	9/16 – 9/20	Writing About Theatre September 20-22 – Collaborative Showcase
Week 5	9/23 – 9/27	Quiz – NO CLASS
Week 6	9/30 – 10/4	Finding Theatre and Getting Tickets Take Your Seats, Please September 4 – Play Analysis Due
Week 7	10/7 – 10/11	The Curtain Rises Back Stage Revealed
Week 8	10/14 – 10/18	Quiz – NO CLASS
Week 9	10/21 – 10/25	The Playwright’s Story Actors and Characters
Week 10	10/28 – 11/1	The Director’s Impact The Designer’s Vision Putting it All Together
Week 11	11/4 – 11/8	Quiz – NO CLASS
Week 12	11/11 – 11/15	Theatre in Europe Theatre in Asia
Week 13	11/18 – 11/22	Quiz – NO CLASS November 20-24 – Stuart Little
Week 14	11/25 – 11/29	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
Week 15	12/2 – 12/6	Show Biz is Big Biz Musical Theatre
Week 16	12/9 – 12/13	Finals Week December 11 -Play Analysis Due

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