



THE, 1310, C0E, Intro to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Patrick Darling

University Email Address: pdarling@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Texts

All required readings will be posted on D2L as pdf files or links.

Supplementary Text (Not Required)

1. *Experiencing Theatre* by Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Ireland
ISBN: 978-1-58510-408-6

Software Required

1. Access to D2L via MyLeo
2. Basic word processing and presentation software (Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Google Docs, Slides, etc.)

Course Description

This course provides an introductory overview of theatre history and the modern production process. In addition to studying theatre, students will actively participate in creating it through multiple class projects geared toward the different aspects of the art.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of what theatre is, how it came to be, and the processes required to create it.
2. Students will analyze scripts and productions representing a variety of genres, time periods, and styles.
3. Students will be directly immersed in theatre through viewings of live performances and participation in class activities.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The ability to navigate a web browser, the D2L system, and basic word processing software.

Instructional Methods

This course will be taught in person using D2L to provide additional supplementary material digitally.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Check D2L and your email regularly! These are likely the first places that you will receive important updates regarding class schedule changes and the like.
2. Use this syllabus! Most of the questions you are likely to have about the course schedule can likely be answered by this document, which will always be available to you in its most updated form on D2L.
3. Stay in communication with myself and your fellow classmates! Extenuating circumstances occur. I can always make accommodations for you to be successful as possible in this course but for that to happen I need as much forewarning as possible about emergency situations. Also have the courtesy to inform your classmates of any sudden changes in your schedule when engaged in group work.
4. Conduct yourself with respect to your classmates and instructor, to the course material, and to yourself.

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

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Grading Categories:

Participation	10%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Play Responses (4)	20%
Activities (6)	30%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

A majority of your grade in this course will be based on the amount of original thought that goes into your work. If an assignment asks for an informed opinion on a production or a script, positive and negative responses are equally valid given that the opinion is supported by critical thought.

The 10% participation grade listed above is determined by overall engagement with the course material, as well as contribution to their groups for assignments that require teamwork.

All other forms of graded work will have detailed rubrics listed on D2L.

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

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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.

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

I am here to help you learn, and I am happy to help! That being said, I cannot do anything for you until I know what the problem is. If you feel the need to reach out, following some simple guidelines regarding email etiquette will expedite the communication process.

Email Policy:

Please do me the courtesy of checking the syllabus and asking a classmate or two before contacting me with a general question about the course or its schedule. If you still do not have a satisfying answer, feel free to reach out to me.

When emailing me:

Please make your emails clear and concise. It is generally advisable to make sure any emails you send to a professor are grammatically correct and sufficiently proofread.

- Write a relevant subject line such as "Intro to Theatre," or "Intro Assignment Question".
- Concisely state what it is you need. If you cannot fit the entirety of your question or concern into a brief email then you may request an appointment.
- If requesting an appointment, please offer your availability in the initial email.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and sign your name.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Extra Credit: Will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Should an opportunity for extra credit be made available, it will be uniformly offered to the class.

Late Work: If it is possible to make up a late assignment, the work may be turned in with a -5% grade penalty for each day the assignment is late. Keep in mind that some group projects or in-class activities may be impossible to make up at all.

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](https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf).
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/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

Mental Health and Well-Being

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 and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Jan 13, 15

Intro to Intro to theatre. What is theatre? What we do and why we do it.

Week 2: Jan 20, 22

Introduction to basic theatre terminology and theatre spaces.

Jan 20th - No class / Holiday

Week 3: Jan 27, 29

Origins of theatre. Greek Theatre and Ritual. Mimesis. Greek play introduction.

Jan 29th - Quiz #1

Week 4: Feb 3, 5

Greek play reading and discussion.

Week 5: Feb 10, 12

Roman Theatre.

Feb 10th - No class

Feb 12th - Quiz #2

Week 6: Feb 17, 19

Medieval Theatre.

Feb 17th - No class / Holiday

Week 7: Feb 24, 26

Renaissance Theatre.

Feb 26th - Quiz #3

Week 8: Mar 3, 5

A Midsummer Night's Dream Viewing.

Week 9: Mar 10, 12

Contemporary play discussion. Introduction to the production process.

Mar 12th - Renaissance Play response due before class.

Week 10: Mar 17, 19

Spring Break - No Class

Week 11: Mar 24, 26

Playwriting.

Week 12: Mar 31, Apr 2

Designing.

Week 13: Apr 7, 9

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Stage management and Tech Theatre.

Week 14: Apr 14, 16
Directing and Producing.

Week 15: Apr 21, 23
Acting and Improvisation.
Apr 23rd - Quiz #4

Week 16: Apr 28, 30
Improvisation Cont. or Finals Preparation / Pickup days

Week 17: May 5, 7
Final Presentations

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