



## **EAST TEXAS A&M** UNIVERSITY

### **THE 1310 Intro to Theatre**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Donna Deverell, MFA

Office Location: Performing Arts Center 104

Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, or by appointment

University Email Address: [donna.deverell@etamu.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@etamu.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within one (1) business day

#### **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 one production 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 theatre.
2. Students will develop creative capacities through exercises.
3. Students will learn to think critically and apply course materials to live performances.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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 face-to-face class.
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 six 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 productions this semester, as presented by the Department of Theatre. You must sign in and out 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%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% or Below

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## Assessments

- Assignments/Quizzes – 50% (total)
  - Assignments – Assignments will be discussed in class, as they apply to lectures. Instructions to each assignment will be available on D2L. All assignments must be typed and turned in on D2Ls.
  - Quizzes – Quizzes will be available on D2L. Quizzes will open on Friday at 12:01 AM and will be available until Sunday at 11:59 PM. Class will not meet the days of quizzes, in order to give students time to take the quiz.
- Play Attendance – 25% (total)
  - Students must choose one play to attend this semester. Performance dates are listed under the *Important Dates* section of the syllabus. **Students must SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT using the QR code in the lobby in order to receive credit for attending a performance.** The QR code will be available in the lobby before the play begins, as well as after it ends. You **MUST** do both in order to receive credit.
- Play Analysis – 25% (total)
  - Students will analyze the performance they attend by applying Aristotle's Six Elements of Theatre to the performance. This is an academic essay, and should include opening/closing paragraphs as well as the analysis of the elements. As this is an academic essay, spelling and grammar are important. The essay document must be uploaded to D2L. NOTE: links to online documents, photographs, screenshots, and essays typed into the comment section WILL NOT be accepted. It must be an actual document uploaded to the assignment. The play analysis must be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point font and 1" margins.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- September 1 – Labor Day
- September 24-28 – *Student Showcase* performances
- October 1-4 – No class
- November 21-23 – *Suzette Who Set to Sea* performances
- November 27-30 – Thanksgiving Break
- December 5 – Final day of class
- December 8-12 – Finals Week

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

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<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[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, an ETAMU 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

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- Class name and/or number
- Topic of discussion
- Good ideas
  - Practicum Hours
  - MWF 11:00 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."
    - "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

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **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>  
[x](#)

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>

#### **ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

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## **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**

East Texas A&M University

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/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

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## **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

### **Departmental-Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Grievance Procedure**

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

#### **Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness**

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.



## COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

|         |               |  |
|---------|---------------|--|
| Week 1  | 8/25 – 8/29   | Introduction/Syllabus<br>What is Theatre?  |
| Week 2  | 9/1 – 9/5     | Aristotle's Guide to Pleasure<br>Dramatic Genres<br>September 1 – NO CLASS   |
| Week 3  | 9/9 – 9/12    | Theatrical Styles<br>Writing About Theatre<br>September 12 – Quiz, NO CLASS  |
| Week 4  | 9/15 – 9/19   | Finding Theatre and Getting Tickets<br>Take Your Seats, Please   |
| Week 5  | 9/22 – 9/26   | September 24-28 – <i>Student Showcase</i> Performances,<br>NO CLASS THIS WEEK  |
| Week 6  | 9/29 – 10/3   | The Curtain Rises<br>October 1-3 – NO CLASS  |
| Week 7  | 10/6 – 10/10  | Setting the Stage<br>Backstage Revealed<br>October 10 – <i>Student Showcase</i> Play Analysis<br>October 10 – Quiz, NO CLASS |
| Week 8  | 10/13 – 10/17 | The Playwright's Story<br>Actors and Characters  |
| Week 9  | 10/20 – 10/24 | The Director's Impact<br>The Designer's Vision   |
| Week 10 | 10/27 – 10/31 | Putting it All Together<br>October 31 – Quiz, NO CLASS   |
| Week 11 | 11/3 – 11/7   | History of Theatre in Europe   |
| Week 12 | 11/10 – 11/14 | History of Theatre in Asia   |
| Week 13 | 11/17 – 11/21 | November 21-23 – <i>Suzette Who Set to Sea</i><br>Performances, NO CLASS THIS WEEK   |
| Week 14 | 11/24 – 11/28 | Wrapping Up<br>November 26-28 – Thanksgiving, NO CLASS   |
| Week 15 | 12/1 – 12/5   | Wrapping Up<br>December 5 – <i>Suzette Who Set to Sea</i> Play Analysis<br>Due   |
| Week 16 | 12/8 – 12/12  | Finals Week  |

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