



**THE 542: DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN THEATRE  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025  
ONLINE**

**Instructor:** Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre  
**Office Location:** Performing Arts Center #105  
**Office Hours:** MW 12-2 p.m., T/R 11 a.m.-12 p.m or by appointment  
**University Email Address:** [Rebecca.worley@etamu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.worley@etamu.edu)  
**Communication Response Time:** M-F within 24 hours

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Required Textbooks:**

*The Empty Space*, Peter Brook  
*Theater of the Avant-Garde 1890-1950*, Robert Knopf  
*The Theatre and Its Double*, Artaud  
*Towards a Poor Theatre*, Jerzy Grotowski  
*Playing Underground: A Critical History of the 1960s Off-Off Broadway Movement*, Stephen J. Bottoms  
Assorted Hand-outs (posted online)  
PDFs of plays

**Recommended Texts:**

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 9<sup>th</sup>ed.  
*Theatre History*, Brockett and Hildy  
*Century of Innovation*, Brockett and Findlay

**Course Description:**

A survey of the modern theatre from the rise of Naturalism to the present day, with attention being given to the theatrical conditions and changing intellectual climate of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. To develop a working background on the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century theatre, its plays and theories, that will assist students in making intelligent assessments regarding modern theatre.
2. Display a learned knowledge of the skills of the working theatre historian.
3. Synthesize academic research into cohesive scholarly writing and oral presentation.

**Course Objectives:**

To examine and appreciate the legacy of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with regard to contemporary theatre. To identify, with ease, historical antecedents at work on present theatrical practices. Particular emphasis will be placed on the influences of foundational theatrical giants Artaud, Brook, and Grotowski set against realism.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments: TBD**

**Grading:**

The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

90-100 =	A
80-89=	B
70-79=	C
60-69=	D
59 and below=	F

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

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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All course sections offered by ETAMU 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](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)

<b>ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b>
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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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

### 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>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### My Personal Policy:

Please keep in mind that I am a human. I have a family. As such, please see below for my boundaries so that I may maintain my own self-care yet still be available for you as my student:

- You may email me at any point for guidance, questions, etc. I will respond within 24 hours between the hours of **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
  - General course-specific questions: **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first**. If your question has already been addressed, then you will have the answer you need.
  - **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise. 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 (ie: “Development of Modern Theatre class question,”)
    - Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
    - Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, schedule an appointment (see below)
    - **Sign your name**
- I will **NOT** check email on the weekends, which means I will respond Monday morning.
- If you need to ask me an **URGENT** question regarding class at *night*, you may text me. Note, however, that I will **only respond between the hours of 5-8 p.m.**
- If you need me outside of the student/teacher relationship, please text me. I will respond (via text or phone call) as soon as I can.

### Office Hours & Appointments:

To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code below or go to:

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures:

#### Late Work:

Under normal circumstances, I do not accept late work; however, if you have difficulty submitting **assignments in D2L DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES:**

1. Contact Technical Support with the problem
2. Contact me regarding a technical problem with the case number assigned to the problem

For all other reasons (work, family, illness, etc.), please contact me via email ASAP.

**For both technical & personal issues, I will determine the need for an extension on a case by case basis.**

### **Extra Credit:**

As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask.

### **Incompletes:**

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were ***maintaining passing grades at the time of the request*** for an incomplete.

### **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 Policies and 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>

#### **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 ETAMU 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>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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**

ETAMU; 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**

ETAMU 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 ETAMU 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 ETAMU 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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Mental Health**

Please make sure that you are taking care of yourself, not just with the work in this class, but also balancing what is happening in your life. Know that there are people willing to listen and help if needed. If you or someone you care about is in need of any assistance, please reach out to me or use the following resources:

- The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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)
  - 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 or go to <http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html> and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.
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- Crisis Text Line: Text "MHFA" to 741741
  - Lifeline Crisis Chat: [www.crisischat.org](http://www.crisischat.org)
  - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
    - Main Number: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
    - Spanish: 1-888-628-9454
    - TTY (teletypewriter): Preferred relay service or daily 711 then 1-800-799-4889

### **AI Use in Courses (Draft)**

ETAMU 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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**All assignments are due by 11:30 p.m. on the day in which they are listed below.  
All written assignments are completed in D2L via the “Assignments” unit. Reading  
Presentations & Discussion Posts are completed in D2L via the “Discussion Posts” unit.**

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