



THE 547-01
Documentary Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Office Location:	PAC 128
Office Hours:	available to Zoom by appointment
University Email Address:	Jackie.Rosenfeld@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	E-mail Communication
Response Time:	Mon-Fri within 24 hours

“I don’t care about realism—I care about reality.”
-Augusto Boal

Course Description

This course explores playwrights, plays and theatre companies that create docudrama — theatre pieces based on a documents, interviews, and texts in the public record. Unlike written texts or edited films, Documentary Theatre offers a multi-perspective and three-dimensional way into understanding real life experiences in depth through live performances by performers making use of different dramatic expressive means. In this course, students will explore different models of documentary theatre, focusing on the relationship amongst the Form, the Purpose and the Content.

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

You may acquire these materials from the campus bookstore or an online retailer.

Textbook(s) Required:

Instructor will provide course pack for reading.

Required Play Readings or Viewings or Listenings:

I Am My Own Wife by Douglas Wright

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman

Notes from the Field by Anna Deveare Smith

Hafsat Abiola by Anna Deveare Smith*

Excerpts from *Flying In the Face of God* by Cade M. Sikora*

What the Constitution Means to Me by Heidi Schrek

Revival by Bobby Britton *

*these scripts provided by instructor

Software Required: Microsoft Word or other word processing software. All documents must be submitted as .pdf or .doc(x).

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will understand the process both creative and legal of creating Documentary Theatre.
2. Students will critically engage with the history of Documentary Theatre, examining foundational texts and influential artists in order to understand the aesthetic, political, and ethical stakes of the form.
3. The student will be able to participate as a professional in presentations and feedback with both their own and other students' works.
4. The student will be able to complete research for Documentary Theatre.
5. The student will be able to write a short proposal for and draft of Documentary Theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have access to a computer and the ability to use Microsoft Word or other word processing software. Students must also be familiar with how to use the D2L Brightspace platform including uploading documents to Dropbox as .pdfs. Students must be able to use Power Point or Google Slides to create an effective presentation.

Instructional Methods

Students will be graded on a series of reading selections, class projects, practical application of the knowledge that they have learned, the completion of a draft of work about or using the principals of Documentary Theatre, as well as posted class discussion and exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared. Read what needs to be read. Write what needs to be written.
3. Participate. There is a great deal of exciting discussion in this course, and it will be even more exciting with your ideas.

4. Check your school e-mail regularly.
5. Be respectful of your instructor, your classmates, and 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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Play Reading/Viewing Responses	40%
Discussion Board	30%
Semester Project	30%

Assessments

Discussion Board: Most weeks there will be a discussion topic posted covering the reading and viewing material. Students will create their own post and reply to two classmates for topic. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Play Reading/Viewing Responses: Students will read and watch a number of plays over the course of the semester. Students will write a 900 word response essay on each. More details will be provided in class. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Semester Project: Students will choose from a selection of options for a semester project. All projects will be research focused and may include focus on a theatre company, a particular piece of Documentary Theatre, or the creation of a Documentary Theatre piece. Further instructions will be given inclass. If you would like to use this course as a Creative option, you will need to do the creation of a Documentary Theatre piece (in script form.)

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I welcome visits during my office hours and am always happy to make appointments during a time that works best for both the student and I. I don't believe in dumb questions, though I do believe often times the syllabus has not been checked before some questions are asked. If you think it might be on there (a due date or a class policy) check there first. Otherwise feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office and/or Zoom Office Hours. Mondaythrough Friday I will respond to e-mails with 24 hours.

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

Extra Credit:

Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Each satisfactorily completed assignment will be one point added to the student's grade at the end of the semester.

Late Work: I will not accept late work without prior approval.

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>

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

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After that every unexcused will drop your final grade by one full letter.

For more information about the attendance policy and what counts as an excused absence 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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 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

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 www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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*

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