



**THE 1310.001 – INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2026**

Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre
Office Hours (ZOOM unless otherwise requested): Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon or by appointment
University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time: M-F within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks:

Experiencing Theatre – Anne Fletcher and Scott Irelan (**online via Waters Library**)

Pipeline – Dominique Morisseau (**online via Waters Library**)

Supplemental readings & handouts (**pdf in D2L**)

Course Description:

An overview of what makes theatre. Students learn about not just the types drama that exist but, also, the varied roles found within the theatre. A survey of the fields of theatrical activity designed to provide introductory knowledge of all phases of drama, performance, and production procedures.

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

1. Become a more informed, critical audience member
2. Gain a basic understanding of the elements of dramatic structure and of theatrical production
3. Learn to evaluate the artistic quality of a script and a performance
4. Gain appreciation of how plays reflect the people and cultures that produce them.
5. Gain understanding of the relationship of theater to the other arts and humanities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Assignments (3 @ 5 pts each = 15 pts. total): Students will complete three short projects as introductions to/starting points for the concepts at hand. More specific instructions will be provided for each assignment and can be found in D2L under “Assignments.”

Discussion Posts (4 @ 5 pts each = 20 pts. total): In order to successfully complete this assignment, students will need to post **one** initial response to the Discussion Prompt and **two** responses to your classmates' initial posts.

Your initial post must be **30-50 words** in length & should address the prompt. Please include insights, thoughts, and comments &/or questions into the discussion prompt/readings at hand. The ideal initial post is one that is open ended and allows for ongoing conversation & further consideration. The remaining **two posts** should be in conversation with the others in the class & should be **25-30 words** in length. You may choose to respond to two different classmates' initial posts (ie: multiple discussions) OR you may remain engaged in a single classmate's post via two replies (ie: an ongoing discussion with a single classmate).

Your responses will be assessed in the following manner:

- An **exemplary** response is multi-faceted and allows respondents to craft well-reasoned replies.
- A **proficient/competent** response may spark conversation but does not allow the respondents room to dig deep.
- A response in **need of improvement/novice** level is not on topic, is too simplistic and/or is late (past automatic deadline without requesting extension).

Your replies to your classmates' responses will be assessed in the following manner:

- An **exemplary** reply engages in & allows for thoughtful, reasoned, and supported discussion with examples from the play(s) &, potentially, outside investigation.
- A **proficient** reply demonstrates relevance to the topic and is well written, but may be missing some support or other necessary components.
- A **competent** reply lacks depth, is not fully on topic, or does not fully allow for further discussion.
- A reply **needing improvement** does not fully engage in the discussion, is off topic, and/or is late (past automatic deadline without requesting extension).
- A **novice** reply is one that is inappropriate and/or is late (past automatic deadline without requesting extension).

	Exemplary	Proficient	Competent	Needs Improvement	Novice
Response	3	2	2	1	0
Reply 1	1	.8	.6	.4	.2
Reply 2	1	.8	.6	.4	.2

You will not be able to see what your classmates have posted until after you've completed your initial post. The goal of these discussion posts is to help hone our critical thinking and communication skills. This assignment requires more than responding with minimal effort. I will not tolerate haphazard, meaningless comments on the work at hand. As college students, you should realize the importance of voicing your opinions/insights during discussion in positive and respectful ways. Sometimes you will have to agree to disagree with other members of the class. Avoid "knee-jerk reactions" and frame your comments respectfully, with scholarly intelligence, and as a point of academic discourse. ***Disrespect, rudeness, or offensive language of any kind has no place in our classroom space.***

Quizzes (5 @ 5 pts. each = 25 pts. total): Our synthesis of material will be tested through D2L quizzes for each chapter studied. They will cover the textbook chapters, supplemental reading, and material from posted lectures.

Final Exam Project (40 pts.): The final project will be a culmination of the concepts learned throughout the session. Students will develop and post a visual presentation (using PowerPoint, Canva, Prezi, Google Slides, etc.) **WITH NARRATION recorded by the student**, through which they apply concepts learned in class to a contemporary play (read for class). More specific instructions will be provided for this project and can be found in D2L under “Assignments.”

Grading Breakdown:

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

Assignments	15 pts.	100-90 =	A
Discussion Posts	20 pts	89-80=	B
Quizzes	25 pts.	79-70=	C
Final Presentation	40 pts.	69-60=	D
		59 and below=	F
Total	100 pts.		

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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

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@etamu.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 24-48 hours between the hours of **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
 - General course-specific questions: **review your syllabus/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: “Intro to 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.

Office Hours & Appointments:

Scheduling an in-person or Zoom appointment (even during my set office hours) in advance is required. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code below or go to:

<https://forms.gle/gKYH2ZiM5RVyc7Cg8>



COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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.

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.

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 online in the Student Guidebook.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette Webpage for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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.etamu.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**. Go to <https://www.etamu.edu/telus/> for more information & instructions on how to download the **FREE** app.
- Crisis Text Line: Text "MHFA" to 741741
- Lifeline Crisis Chat: www.crisischat.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call, text, or chat **988**

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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**

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the day in which they are listed below.

All written assignments are completed in D2L via the "Assignments" unit.

Discussion Posts are completed in D2L via the "Discussion Posts" unit.

Quizzes are completed in D2L via the "Quizzes" unit.

WEEK	DATES	READING	WHAT'S DUE	DUE DATE
1: WHAT IS THEATRE?	7/6-12	SYLLABUS <i>Experiencing Theatre,</i> "Introduction" – "Exploration One: What is Theatre?"	Quiz #1: The Syllabus	7/7
			Discussion Post 1: What is theatre? What is live performance	7/12
			Quiz #2: Plot & Structure	7/12
2: PLAYWRITING & TYPES OF PLAYS	7/13-19	<i>Dominique Morisseau,</i> <i>Pipeline</i> <i>Experiencing Theatre,</i> "Exploration Two: Playwriting & Types of Plays" & Supplemental Reading: "Genre & Categories of Theatre"	Assignment 1: Plot, Character, Idea, Theme, & Concept of <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>	7/13
			Discussion Post 2: Categories & Genres of <i>Pipeline</i>	7/19
			Quiz #3: Playwriting	7/19

WEEK	DATES	READING	WHAT'S DUE	DUE DATE
3: DESIGN	7/20-26	<i>Experiencing Theatre</i> , “Exploration Three: Designers & the Scenographic Imagination”	Assignment 2: “If I Was A . . .” Project & Pipeline	7/20
			Discussion Post 3: “If I Was A . . .,” Design, & Pipeline	7/26
			Quiz #4: Design and Designers	7/26
4: ACTING & DIRECTING	7/27-8/2	<i>Experiencing Theatre</i> , “Exploration Four: Performer, Director, & Production Dramaturg” & Supplemental Reading: “Vision & Concept & Staging”	Assignment 3: Given Circumstances, Vision, Concept, & Pipeline	7/27
			Discussion Post 4: Directorial Vision & Concept & Pipeline	8/2
			Quiz #5: Acting & Directing	8/2
FINAL EXAM WEEK	8/3-6	Watch Pipeline (link posted in D2L)	Final Presentation Project	8/6