



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Theatre

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kiley Towne

Office Hours: T/Th 1-4 PM or by appointment

Office Location: Performing Arts Center, #107

Email Address: Kiley.Towne@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: M-F, within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Software Required:

- Access to D2L
- Word-processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)
- Access to a recording device or Zoom to upload videos to D2L

Texts and/or Materials:

- No books required: materials will be posted on D2L or given in class
- Notebook paper and a pencil for every class

Required in-person Performance Viewings:

1. *Aliens*, by Annie Baker
October 13-18
2. *Honorable Mention: the neuro-spicy life* by Amber Langehennig
November 17-22

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to develop an engaged understanding of live theatre and performance in contemporary society through an overview of the various artists, skills, crafts, traditions, and conventions that inform the creation of a theatrical event.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn basic theatrical history and vocabulary.
2. Students will be able to analyze and practice the theatrical production process.
3. Students will learn the different roles of theatre practitioners, the importance of collaboration, and how theatrical performances are created.
4. Students will develop an appreciation for theatre and gain an understanding of the direct influence it has on society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Access to D2L and participation in all in-class activities. This class will utilize a combination of assignments, activities, and quizzes for evaluation.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Check D2L: Check D2L regularly for class updates. Any changes to the calendar will be announced on D2L. All quizzes will be made available through D2L and submitted in D2L. If you experience difficulty accessing it at any time, please let me know.

ASSESSMENTS

A grade of “A” will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL class assignments and attendance at both departmental productions regardless of average.

GRADING

Attendance and Participation	100 pts
Daily Assignments (33)	5 pts (ea)
Syllabus Quiz	5 pts
Activities (9)	10 pts (ea)
Midterm Project	50 pts
In-Person Performance Viewing Attendance (2)	10 pts (ea)
In-Person Performance Responses (2)	30 pts
Final Project	100 pts
	Total: 500

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

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me.

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please reach out to me. I am always available by email or Zoom meetings if necessary. Please communicate, I can't help if I don't know there's an issue or a question.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the D2L site**. If you do not find the answer, please feel free to email me. **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise, written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. 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 (e.g., "Intro to Theatre," or "Intro Assignment Question")
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Kiley" or "Hi Kiley" or just "Kiley")
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. **If requesting an appointment**, give me times that you are available **in the initial email!!!** It helps things go faster if I have your availability to compare to mine.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and **sign your name**.

Extra Credit: Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Will be announced on D2L or in class.

Late/Missing Work: Late work will be accepted with 10% taken off each day it is past due up to 5 days. Please make every effort to turn in your work on time.

Everyone in this class is granted one 24-hr "no questions asked" extension on a D2L submission.

Incompletes: An Incomplete will be given only in cases of serious illness and/or death in the immediate family. Rounding up or down fractions of a percentage is at the discretion of the instructor

Use of AI: All assignments should be your original work and should not be produced in part or in total with the assistance of artificial intelligence (for example, ChatGPT, Grammarly, or some other resource). The use of "artificial intelligence" tools is not permitted in this class, unless explicitly agreed and announced by the instructor for specific assignments. See ETAMU's AI policy listed below for more information.

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

You will get (2) unexcused absences for the semester. After the second unexcused absence, each unexcused absence will drop final scores $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade. Appropriate documentation is needed to constitute an excused absence and will only be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

- If the professor sees you on your phone or participating in non-class related activities during class, you may be counted absent for the day.
- If you are 5 minutes late to class you will be counted as tardy. 2 tardies equal an absent grade.
- If you are 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent.

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS (5 pts. each)

Over the course of the semester, students will engage in Daily Assignments. Bring notebook paper and a pencil to every class to complete these assignments. **Each assignment will be due at the beginning or end of every class depending on the subject or lesson plan.**

SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 pts.)

The syllabus quiz will be taken in class on D2L. You will have the ability to retake the quiz as many times as you'd like in order to improve your grade. The instructor's goal is for every student to have the potential to achieve 100% scores for this quiz; this is very possible if you plan ahead and are willing to re-test. Students are permitted to use the course syllabus during the quiz.

ACTIVITIES (10 pts. each)

Students will be given various Activities over the course of the semester designed to introduce concepts and increase understanding of and engagement with the material. **Each Activity will be due at the end of class on the day it is due.**

PLAY VIEWING ATTENDANCE (2 at 10 pts. each)

Students will attend two departmental productions.. Students who attend the productions and submit the proper evidence of attendance will receive 10 points on their final grade per production. **Evidence of attendance will include a selfie with the setting of the stage in the background to D2L immediately AFTER the production.** Students that do not submit proper evidence of attendance will not receive credit for their play response. Make sure to attend both performances!

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE RESPONSES (25 pts.)

A video recording of your response to the performances using the given prompts. Details for these responses will be posted on D2L and announced in class. **Responses will be due at 11:59 PM on D2L on the due date.**

MIDTERM PROJECT (50 pts.)

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After learning theatre history and genres, you will create a season for a theatre company. Details for the project will be posted on D2L and announced in class.

FINAL EXAM (100 pts.)

Details for the final will be posted on Canvas and announced in class.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**This Calendar is subject to change!*

Date	Topic	Assignment/Due Date
8/21	Introduction to Course	
8/24	Introduction to Course	
8/26	What is Theatre?	Due: DA 1 Syllabus Quiz
8/28	What is Theatre?	Due: • DA 2 • Syllabus Quiz
8/31	Theatre History: Ancient Greeks	Due: DA 3
9/2	Theatre History: Ancient Greeks	Due: DA 4
9/4	Theatre History: Aristotle's Poetics	Due: • DA 5 • Activity #1
9/7	No Class - Labor Day	
9/9	Theatre History: Elizabethan	Due: DA 6
9/11	Theatre History: Shakespeare	Due: DA 7
9/14	Theatre History: Shakespeare	Due: • Activity #2
9/16	Theatre History: Realism	Due: DA 8
9/18	Theatre History: Modern Theatre	Due: DA 9
9/21	Theatre History: Modern Theatre	Due: DA 10
9/23	Theatre History: Modern Theatre	Due: • DA 11

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		• Activity #3
9/25	Contemporary Theatre	Due: DA 12
9/28	Contemporary Theatre	Due: DA 13
9/30	Contemporary Theatre	Due: • DA 14 • Activity #4
10/2	Musicals	Due: DA 15
10/5	The Art of Playwrighting	Due: DA 16
10/7	The Art of Playwrighting	Due: DA 17
10/9	No Class - Fall Break	
10/12	The Art of Directing	Due: DA 18 In-person Performance Viewing: <i>Aliens</i> (10/13-18)
10/14	The Art of Directing	Due: • DA 19 • Midterm Project
10/16	The Art of Directing	Due: • DA 20 • Activity #5
10/19	The Art of Scenic Design	Due: DA 21
10/21	The Art of Scenic Design	Due: DA 22
10/23	The Art of Scenic Design	Due: • DA 23 • In-person Performance Response: <i>Aliens</i> • Activity #6
10/26	The Art of Costume Design	Due: DA 24
10/28	The Art of Costume Design	Due: DA 25
10/30	The Art of Costume Design	Due:

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		• DA 26 • Activity #7
11/2	The Art of Lighting Design	Due: DA 27
11/4	The Art of Lighting Design	Due: DA 28
11/6	The Art of Sound Design	Due: • DA 29 • Activity #8
11/9	Theatre Production	Due: DA 30
11/11	The Art of Acting	Due: DA 31
11/13	The Art of Acting	Due: DA 32
11/16	The Art of Acting	Due: • DA 33 • Activity #9 In-person Performance Viewing: <i>Honorable Mention: the neuro-spicy life</i> (11/17-22)
11/18	Final Project Preparations	
11/20	Final Project Preparations	
11/23	Final Project Preparations	
11/25-27	No Class - Thanksgiving break	
11/30	Final Presentations	
12/2	Final Presentations	
12/4	Final Presentations	Due: • In-person Performance Response: <i>Honorable Mention: the neuro-spicy life</i>
No Class - Finals Week		

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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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:

<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>

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

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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.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).<http://www.etamu.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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be 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 instructor’s 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

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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.

The use of “artificial intelligence” tools is not permitted in this class, unless explicitly agreed and announced by the instructor for specific assignments.

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.etamu.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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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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.etamu.edu/counsel

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