

Introduction to Theater

Fall 2010 Syllabus
W/ F Section 1: 00- 2:15
Ruth Hale
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DRAM 1310

Credits 3
Room UC# 217

Required Texts:

Jacobus, Lee A., ed. *The Bedford Introduction to Drama*. 6th ed. New York: Bedford, 2001. Print.
ISBN- 13: 978-0312474881

Method: Lectures, demonstrations, videos, A/V presentations, discussions, interactive games, improvisation, and viewings of live performances.

Super –Objectives: It has often been said that the theatre is the arena where humans attempt to make sense of their experiences, as individuals and as members of a community. This course will assist the beginning student, through a survey of important production techniques, a brief history of the western theatre, and a study of a handful of important plays-with a broad base of knowledge about the various forms of what we call theatre and to provide the student with critical tools for assessing the theatrical experience.

Course Requirements: There are 2 to 3 play critiques, 5 play quizzes, one mid-term exam, a final cumulative exam and the students' full participation in class discussions, exercises, and group projects.

Productions: The following productions are scheduled for the Fall 2010 semester at Texarkana Community College

Steel Magnolias - September 10-19 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm

The Foreigner - November 5-14 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm

Play critiques will be due on the first class period after a production closes.

All critiques must be 2-4 pages typewritten, 12 font, Times New Roman, 1 ¼ inch margins, doubled-spaced, free of spelling, grammatical and compositional errors. The critique should be a thoughtful analysis of the production in question and handed in on time. The specific criteria and subjects of these papers will vary depending on the production.

Exams and Quizzes: Exams/quizzes will take the form of one or a combination of the following: objective (multiple choice) and subjective (essay or short answer). The quizzes will cover the following required reading.

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Fences by August Wilson

Antigone by Sophocles

Tartuffe by Moliere

How I Learned To Drive by Paula Vogel

Final Exam: Date still to be announced

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Students who are requesting an excused absence are expected to adhere to one of the following guidelines. 1.) Participation in an authorized university activity. 2.) Death or major illness in a student's immediate family. 3.) Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require the student's presence. 4.) Injury or illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.

For injury or illness that requires a student to be absent from classes, the student should obtain a medical confirmation note from his or her medical provider. The medical confirmation note must contain the date and time of illness and medical professional's confirmation of needed absence.

Each student is allowed two unexcused absences during the course of the semester. The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to makeup work missed because of an unexcused absence.

Tardiness Policy: Four tardies constitute one unexcused absence.

Grading:

Final exam @ 200 points

Mid-term @ 150 points

5 Play Quizzes @ 50 points each = 250 points

2 Play Critiques @ 100 points each = 200 points

1 Group Project @ 100 points

Classroom participation @ 100 points

Total = 1000 points

1000- 900 A

899- 800 B

799- 700 C

699- 600 D

599 -0 F

Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and / or disciplinary actions. For additional information see the university policy manual.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A & M – Texarkana Director of Students Services by calling 903-223-3062.

Texas A&M-Texarkana email account:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Addenda: ALL cell phones, beepers and pagers must be turned off for the duration of each class. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule. Also **NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES** are allowed in class. Please be courteous to your neighbors and refrain from talking or making unnecessary noise during class.

The Theatre Experience **TE**, will be issued to the student as a handout and is considered as required supplemental reading to augment the course.

Week/ Date	Topic	Assignment/Event
1 8/27	Course Introduction, syllabus What is Theatre?	TE: 1-10
2 9/1	Origins of theater	TE: 15-24
	Reading Images	TE: 25-35
9/3	The 5 Necessary Elements of Theatre How to read a play	Handout
3 9/8	<i>The Poetics</i> , Aristotle	Bedford 95-101
	9/10 Dramatic structure/characters Epic Theater	TE: 305-319 Bedford 872
4 9/15	Acting- Styles, methods and history	TE: 99-112,115-136 DVD
	9/17 Directing	TE: 139-162 Various film excerpts
5 9/22	Tragedy and Drama Film: <i>The Trojan Women</i> by Euripides Steel Magnolias play critique due	TE: 189-203
	9/24 Greek and Roman Theatre Antigone quiz and discussion	Bedford: 30-38; 190-92 Bedford: <i>Antigone</i> 107-128
6 9/29	Elizabethan theatre/Neoclassicism	Bedford 256-60; 496-7
	10/1 Theatre spaces	TE: 69-89 DVD

7 10/6 Commedia dell' arte # 1 Group Project TE: 280-281
Comedy TE: 205-222
10/8 **Tartuffe Quiz and discussion** Bedford: *Tartuffe* 496-501; 509-538

8 10/13 Dance Various film excerpts
Study guide/Review/ Q & A
10/15 **Mid-Term Exam**

9 10/20 Lighting design TE: 385-397
Costume design TE: 361-382
10/22 Scenic design TE: 333- 35
Film: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

10 10/27 Musicals TE: 225-240
10/29 Musicals Videos
***The Glass Menagerie* quiz and discussion**
Bedford: *Glass Menagerie* 1028-60

11 11/3 The Script and the Playwright Interactive Improv
11/5 **The Business of Show Business #2 Group Report**
(Producers, auditions, Broadway, Off Broadway) TE: 162- 167

12 11/10 **African American Theatre#3 Group Report** TE: 244-248
Film: *The Black Experience* (documentary) Video
11/12 **Fences quiz and discussion** Bedford 1483-1516
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry DVD

13 11/17 Realism –Ibsen, Strindberg and Chekov TE: 43-54
***The Foreigner* play critique due**
11/19 Film excerpts: *A Doll's House* by Ibsen video
Miss Julie by Strindberg
The Cherry Orchard by Chekov

14 11/ 24 **The Federal Theater Project 1930 #4 Group Report**
Film Excerpts: Orson Well's *Macbeth* Video
The Cradle Will Rock

THANKSGIVING

15 12/1 Diversity in Theatre Bedford 1235-1249

12/ 3 ***How I Learned to Drive* quiz and discussion** Bedford 1583-1614
Performance Art Video

16 12/8 Where is theatre headed? Discussion
12/10 Last class, wrap-up and review Jeopardy Review Show