

# Introduction to Theater

Fall 2012 Syllabus  
Section W 1pm – 3:45 pm  
Ruth Hale  
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# DRAM 1310

Credits 3  
Room UC326

**Required Texts:** *The Anthology of Living Theater*: Edwin Wilson  
ISBN: 9780073514130

**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 play critiques, 5 play quizzes, 2 mid- term like exams, a final cumulative exam and the students' full participation in classroom discussions, exercises, and group projects.

**Productions:** The following productions are scheduled for the fall 2012 semester at Texarkana Community College **Tickets at 903-831-7827**

*The 39 Steps* – September 7-16 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* - Nov. 2-11 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm

Students – 10\$ ; Adults – 12\$

**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.

*Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams

*Fences* by August Wilson

*Antigone* by Sophocles

*Tartuffe* by Moliere

*How I Learned To Drive* by Paula Vogel

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 19, 2012 -Room UC 326 – 1pm

**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 **ONE** 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.

**CELL PHONE USE POLICY AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT:** Cell phone use (of any kind –voice, text messages, etc.) and inappropriate laptop use is banned during class. Please put cell phones out of sight and mute them during class time. If you use your phone or send text messages during class you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent for that day. For each violations of this clause you will forfeit 10 points from your classroom participation points.

**Grading:**

Final exam @ 150 points

Exam #1 @ 100 points

Exam #2 @ 100 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.

**Addenda:** Due to the length of the class there will be a 10 -15 minute break, depending upon on the lecture. Students are allowed to have covered beverages in the class. **NO FOOD is** allowed in class. Please be courteous to your neighbors and refrain from talking or making unnecessary noise during class.

**The Theatre Experience:** Edwin Wilson 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (**TE**) will be issued to the student as a handout and is considered as required supplemental reading to augment the course.

**The syllabus is subject to change**

<b>Week/ Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment/Event</b>
<b>1</b> 8/29	Course Introduction, syllabus What is Theatre? Origins of theater Reading Images The 5 Necessary Elements of Theatre How to read a play	TE: 15-24 TE: 25-35  Handout
<b>2</b> 9/5	<i>The Poetics</i> , Aristotle Dramatic structure/characters	TE:305-319;275-288
<b>3</b> 9/12	Tragedy and Drama Film: <i>The Trojan Women</i> by Euripides Greek and Roman Theatre <b>Antigone quiz and discussion</b>	TE: 189-203  Handout Wilson: <i>Antigone</i>
<b>4</b> 9/19	Acting- Styles, methods and history Directing  <b>The 39 Steps, play critique due</b>	TE: 99-112,115-136 TE: 139-162 Various film excerpts Discussion
<b>5</b> 9/26	Theatre spaces /Neoclassicism  Comedy	TE: 69-89 DVD  TE: 205-222

6 10/3 Dance Various film excerpts  
**Exam #1**

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7 10/10 **Elizabethan Theatre #1 Group Project** TE: 41- 43; 108-109

**Commedia dell' arte # 2 Group Project** TE: 280-281  
**Tartuffe Quiz and discussion** Wilson: *Tartuffe*  
Handout

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8 10/17 Lighting design TE: 385-397  
Costume design TE: 361-382  
Scene design TE: 333- 35  
Film: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof quiz and discussion** Wilson: *Cat*

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9 10/24 Musicals TE: 225-240  
Videos

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10 10/31 The Script and the Playwright Interactive Improv

**Exam #2**

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11 11/7 **The Business of Show Business #3 Group Report**  
(Producers, auditions, Broadway, Off Broadway) TE: 162- 167  
**The Federal Theater Project 1930 #4 Group Report**  
Film Excerpts: Orson Well's *Macbeth* Video  
*The Cradle Will Rock*

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12 11/14 Realism – Ibsen, Strindberg and Chekov TE: 43-54  
Film excerpts: *A Doll's House* by Ibsen video  
*Miss Julie* by Strindberg  
*The Cherry Orchard* by Chekov  
**A *Midsummer Night's Dream* , play critique due** Discussion

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13 **Turkey Day....**Drive safe and don't eat too much!!!!

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**14** 11/28 ***Fences quiz and discussion*** Handout  
*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry DVD  
**African American Theatre#5 Group Report** TE: 244-248  
Film: *The Black Experience* (documentary) Video

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**15** 12/5 Diversity in theatre TE: 243-270  
***How I Learned to Drive* quiz and discussion** Handout

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**16** 12/12 Performance Art Video  
Where is theatre headed? Discussion  
Study Guide Q & A- Review

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**Wednesday, December 19, 2012; Time 1p.m. Final Exam**