

Introduction to Theater

Spring 2013 Syllabus
Section W 1pm – 3:45 pm
Ruth Hale

rhale@tamut.edu ; ruthhale1@aol.com

DRAM 1310

Credits 3
Room TBA

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 spring 2013 semester at Texarkana Community College. **Tex Rep** Theater group
Godspell – February 1-10, 2013 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm
The Spring Musical TBA - May 3 –12, 2013: Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm
Tickets at 903-831-7827 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, May 8, 2013

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 9th 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

Week/ Date	Topic	Assignment/Event
1 1/22	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
2 1/30	<i>The Poetics</i> , Aristotle Dramatic structure/characters	TE:305-319;275-288
3 2/6	Tragedy and Drama Film: <i>The Trojan Women</i> by Euripides Greek and Roman Theatre Antigone quiz and discussion	TE: 189-203 Handout Wilson: <i>Antigone</i>
4 2/13	Acting- Styles, methods and history Directing Godspell, play critique due	TE: 99-112,115-136 TE: 139-162 Various film excerpts Discussion
5 2/20	Theatre spaces /Neoclassicism Comedy	TE: 69-89 DVD TE: 205-222

6 2/27 Dance Various film excerpts
Exam #1

7 3/6 **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

8 **March 11- 15 Spring Break**

9 3/20 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*

10 3/27 Musicals TE: 225-240 Videos

11 4/3 The Script and the Playwright Interactive Improvisation

Exam #2

12 4/10 **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*
The Cradle Will Rock

13 4/17 Realism – Ibsen, Strindberg and Chekov TE: 43-54
Film excerpts: *A Doll's House* by Ibsen DVD
Miss Julie by Strindberg
The Cherry Orchard by Chekov

14 4/24 ***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

15 5/1 Diversity in theatre TE: 243-270
***How I Learned to Drive* quiz and discussion** Handout
Performance Art Video
Where is theatre headed? Discussion
Study Guide Q & A- Review

16 5/8 **Final Exam**

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 -The Spring Musical TBA, play critique due