

Introduction to Theater

Spring 2012 Syllabus

Section W 1pm – 3:45 pm

Ruth Hale

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DRAM 1310

Credits 3

Room UC231

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 2011 semester at Texarkana Community College

Tickets at 903-831-7827

Doubt – February 3-12 Fri-Sa 7:30 pm and Sun. 2: 00 pm

Xanadu - May 4-13 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: Wednesday, May 2, 2012 -Room UC 231 – 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.

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: ALL cell phones, beepers and pagers must be turned off for the duration of each class. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule. **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.

Week/ Date	Topic	Assignment/Event
1 1/18	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 1/25	<i>The Poetics</i> , Aristotle Dramatic structure/characters	TE:305-319;275-288
3 2/1	Acting- Styles, methods and history Directing	TE: 99-112,115-136 TE: 139-162 Various film excerpts
4 2/8	Tragedy and Drama Film: <i>The Trojan Women</i> by Euripides Greek and Roman Theatre Antigone quiz and discussion	TE: 189-203 Wilson: <i>Antigone</i> Handout
5 2/15	Theatre spaces /Neoclassicism Doubt, play critique due Comedy	TE: 69-89 DVD Discussion TE: 205-222
6 2/22	Dance Exam #1	Various film excerpts
7 2/29	Elizabethan Theatre #1 Group Project Commedia dell' arte # 2 Group Project Tartuffe Quiz and discussion	TE; 41- 43; 108-109 TE: 280-281 Wilson: <i>Tartuffe</i> Handout

8 3/7 Lighting design TE: 385-397
Costume design TE: 361-382
Scene design TE: 333- 35
Film: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

The Glass Menagerie quiz and discussion Wilson: *Glass Menagerie*

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Spring BreakMarch 12-16

10 2/21 Musicals TE: 225-240
Videos

11 3/28 The Script and the Playwright Interactive Improv

Exam #2

12 4/4 **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

13 4/11 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

14 4/18 **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 4/25 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 5/2 **Final Exam**

May 9, 2012

***Xanadu*, Musical critique due**