Introduction to Theatre  
DRAM 1310-63295  
Spring 2015  
1/28/2015-5/14/2015

Instructor: Amy Mills Jackson  
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Office Phone Number: (214) 860-3685  
Office Number: W37  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm;  
            Tuesday & Thursday - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Meeting Days & Time: M-W-F 8:00-8:55 AM  
            (3 Hour Class)

Room Number: W37  
Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours (3LEC)

Division: Sciences, Nursing, Arts/Humanities, & Physical Education  
Office Phone: (214) 860-8671

Course Description: This course is an overview of theatre that includes history, theatre genres,  
attending live theatre, understanding theatre jobs including acting, playwriting and production.  
Course Pre-requisites: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL)  
0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Materials/Supplies Needed  
A. Textbooks:  
   No text is required  
   One script-TBA

B. Supplies:  
a. One three-ring binder or folder to keep all class materials and handouts - this  
   should not be the same one you use for other classes.  
b. One Spiral Notebook or Journal  
c. Office supplies (pens, highlighters, paper, etc.).  
d. It is the student’s responsibility to bring all scripts, handouts, recorders and any  
   other materials used for the course to every class meeting.

STATE REQUIREMENTS  
Intellectual Competencies
Drama 1351 includes the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.”

**Course Objectives**

- **(Clear and Logical Thinking)** The ability to...
  - Analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and interpret information and ideas
  - Integrate knowledge and experience to arrive at creative solutions
  - Articulate accurately strengths and weaknesses of one’s own work
- **(Effective Communication)** The ability to...
  - Read and listen with comprehension and critical perception
  - Develop a common vocabulary as is applicable to theatre and the theatrical process
  - Recognize and use a variety of written communication forms and styles
  - Work collaboratively as part of a team
  - Gather information from printed sources, electronic sources, and observations
  - Learn independently
- **(Aesthetic response)** The ability to...
  - Employ and expand the imagination
  - Engage in creative expression
  - Respond to the natural world and creative expression with knowledge and sensitivity

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Comprehend and utilize stage etiquette and discipline as they pertain to the cooperative and collaborative nature of theatre
- Employ a basic understanding of Aristotle’s “Poetics.”
- Exhibit an elementary approach to analyzing a script as an actor or designer might.
- Construct an original scene using exposition, rising action, crisis, climax, falling action, and conclusion
- Evaluate a performance on stage and compare and contrast it to others using stage/acting terminology in both written and verbal communication.

**Course Outline:**


**Units of Instruction**

Classes will consist of lecture, discussion and exercises that have been prepared by students in class and at home. Each student will have the opportunity to complete exercises and to receive feedback. Units of instruction include:

A. Stage and Acting Terminology
B. History of Theatre
   1. Greek
   2. Elizabethan
   3. French
   4. American
C. Understanding the Jobs in Theatre
   1. Playwrights
   2. Actors
   3. Directors
   4. Designers
   5. Stage Managers
D. Reviewing Live Theatre Productions

**DCCCD CRITICAL DATES** –

Classes Begin: Wednesday, January 28, 2015
Census/Certification Date: Monday, February 2, 2015
Last Date to Withdraw with a "W": Thursday, April 16, 2015
Last Class Day: Friday, May 8, 2015
Finals Week Starts: Monday, May 11, 2015
Semester Ends: Thursday, May 14, 2015

**CHAPTER PROJECTS & STUDENT PROGRESS DEMONSTRATIONS:** At specific points throughout the semester, which are located in critical dates, students will be required to give performances to demonstrate his/her progress and development of the monologue chosen for the final project. An important part of this assignment will be the evaluation of fellow classmates. Therefore, it is imperative that students attend these specific classes. If a student is absent on these days, he/she will receive a zero for the assignment unless previous arrangements have been made at least forty eight hours in advance. There are no exceptions.

**COMPLETION/ACHIEVEMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS** – Students are expected to complete any assignments given with a high level of individual achievement. If a student does not understand an assignment, it is their responsibility to get clarification from the instructor when the assignment is given, not wait until the due date. The assignment will still be due and points will be deducted for not completing it according to the given specifications.

**EFFORT** – In order to receive a passing grade, students are expected to arrive on time with all supplies and assignments ready to participate in all activities with a high level of concentration. This course is a laboratory course in that it cannot be accomplished without constant in-class participation and feedback.

**PLAY ATTENDANCE** - Each student of Acting will be required to attend LIVE theatre productions during the semester. A critique guide will be provided by the instructor.
Instructor Attendance/Tardy Policy:

ATTENDANCE – This is crucial to the student’s success in the course, and is MANDATORY. Some assignments are partially, if not entirely, completed in class. Students are expected to attend all classes. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs. This is crucial to the student’s success in the course. Many assignments are completed in class. Students are expected to attend regularly all classes in which they are enrolled.

- Attendance will be taken daily. This class is 100% participation. Actors learn by doing the work and watching the work of others.
- DO NOT MISS REHEARSALS with your partner; please be respectful of your classmate’s time.
- If a student is absent on a day that an assignment is given, it is their responsibility to get the assignment and all support materials online or from fellow classmates. The instructor will not repeat a lecture for students who are absent for any reason. Retrieve this information online or from a fellow classmate.
- If for some reason an emergency takes place or the student develops an illness that takes time to heal, please notify the instructor and provisions can be made. However, if illness is the excuse for excessive absences, a doctor’s note must be provided by the student. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor if a situation arises where coursework might be compromised.
- Using an absence as an excuse for not doing an assignment or turning it in late will not be permitted. If a student is absent on a day that a project or assignment is due, or when a test is given, the student will be not allowed to make up the work unless arrangements have been made beforehand.

Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending, by the certification date. For this lecture course, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, note the critical dates located in eCampus or check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses.

Grading Procedure:

A TOTAL OF 100 POINTS are possible in this course. (There are more points available than what is required for an "A". This is to help with those "bad days").

Grading Scale:
90-100 points = A
80-90 points = B
70-80 points = C
60-70 points = D
59 or below = FAILURE
Withdrawal Policy:
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by **April 16, 2015**. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." Students often drop courses when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with your instructor if you feel the need to withdraw.

If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a "W" (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the Fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career, unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions.

Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W.” Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas Public Institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop

Cell phones, electronic devices and pagers:
Students are expected to turn off all cell phones, electronic devices and pagers during class time. Use of cell phones, pagers, CD players, radios and similar devices are prohibited in the classroom unless being utilized by the instructor or for presentation purposes. If they make themselves known during class time, the student loses 25 participation points. Additionally, if your cell phone or pager goes off during the class meeting time more than three times throughout the semester, you will be expected to collect your property (textbooks, book bags, etc.) and leave the classroom.

Repeating This Course:
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. This class may not be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition.

Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. More information is available at: https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm.

Financial Aid:
Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending by the certification date. For this lecture class, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date, will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses. Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office.
prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI):
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. Additional information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/admiss/tsi_requirements.cfm .

Academic Honesty:
Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, fabrication, plagiarism, collusion or facilitating academic dishonesty. If the problem persists or is overtly in violation, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as described in the “Student Code of Conduct”.

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code.cfm .

ADA Statement:
Mountain View College and the Office of Special Services are committed to upholding the laws and the spirit of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed in 1990.

Religious Holidays:
Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Inclement Weather Statement:
In the event of severe weather conditions, please listen to local radio or television stations for information concerning official closing of Mountain View College facilities. You can also call the inclement weather hotline at 214-860-8888, or check for updates on this web site. Decisions for evening classes will be made by 4:00 pm.
eCAMPUS BLACKBOARD:
Parts of this course are available through eCampus Blackboard, a course management software platform for use by students and faculty. Course information, communication, and grades will be accessible through this system. Students must have an email address to access the eCampus system. Email addresses may be acquired for FREE through a variety of sources.

- IMPORTANT – Students are NOT REQUIRED TO OWN A COMPUTER.
- MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS –
  - Netscape 4.75, 6, 6.2, or above or Internet Explorer 6.0.
  - 800 x 600 screen resolution or better.
  - Mediaplayer
  - Macromedia Flash player (Links to download these players are provided for you in the "Announcements" page, the first page you see when you enter the course. It is advisable to update these when the computer tells you one is available.
  - It is necessary to have speakers or earphones.
- SOFTWARE – Students are not required to own Microsoft Word or Microsoft Power Point to complete this course. However, they must have access to a computer with these programs in order to complete certain assignments. Stating, "I don't own this software" is not an excuse for failing to complete an assignment. Those without this software should have access to these programs either at work, at any DCCCD campus, at a family member’s or friend's home. You can also purchase a student version of Microsoft Office at numerous retailers at a much cheaper price. ONCE AGAIN - YOU DO NOT HAVE TO OWN THE SOFTWARE; YOU JUST NEED ACCESS TO THEM. Ask your instructor about “Open Office”.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBERS – This is very important. Should the students mailing or email addresses or phone number change, it is your responsibility to communicate that change with the Admissions Office so that you can receive your grade. You must also change your address in eCampus in order to receive emails from the instructor.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE – Students are expected to operate under the “Student Code of Conduct” as stated in the Mountain View College Catalog. Please become familiar with it.

CONFERENCE – If a student needs to speak to the instructor, you may set up an appointment or come by during office hours. Also, a student may leave a message for the instructor in the Fine Arts Office, (214) 860-8632.

OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL – Please be advised that this course may include literature and material that contains strong language, adult subject matter, and adult situations.

OTHER INFORMATION –
- The instructor is not responsible for lost or stolen items from the classroom. Leave valuables at home.