Introduction to Theater Syllabus
Professor Dusty Thomas, Eastfield College

Instructor Information
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Course Information
Course Title: Introduction to Theater
Course Number: DRAM 1310
Section Number: 46400
Semester/Year: Summer 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: ONLINE- Blackboard
Certification Date: 07/09/2020
Last Day to Withdraw: 07/29/2020

Course Prerequisites
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Description
The various aspects of theatre are surveyed. Topics include plays, playwrights, directing, acting, theatres, artists, and technicians. (3 Lec.) Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 5005015126

Student Learning Outcomes
After successfully completing DRAM 1310, the student will be able to:
   Identify what makes a good play and a good performance.
   Have read and become acquainted with various playwrights and plays.
Begin to understand the relationship between play, actor and audience. 
Analyze the relationship of play, playwright, and historical significance to western theatre. 
Gain an awareness of local theaters and their offerings. 
Gain an appreciation of the theatre’s influence/benefit to contemporary society. 
Define the traditional role of actor, director, designer, technician. 
Gain a knowledge of basic terminology related to theater. 
Gain an understanding of the creative process and explore the role of the actor, director and designer in the process. 
Write a theatre criticism 
Comprehend historic movements of theatre. 
Have a basic understanding of the theatre styles of the twentieth century. 
Research a significant theatrical production of the twentieth century. 
Gain an understanding of the bibliographic material available in theatre.

Texas Core Objectives
The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Required Course Materials
Access to MS Word and the Internet 
Attendance to 2 live theater productions (professional or collegiate) - These can be viewed online from an approved list due to Covid-19. Suggested subscription to Broadway HD or the Free DCCCD streaming service Kanopy
Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Graded Work**

**Summary of Graded Work**

Subject to Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes (4)</td>
<td>4 @ Varies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Critiques</td>
<td>2 @ 100 points each</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>5 @ 10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 points/ class</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL: points**

**Final Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1,000</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description of Graded Work**

Tests/Quizzes (25-50 points/ each)
Attendance at 2 LIVE plays with written critiques (100 points/ each) - *Pre-recorded from list*
1 Oral presentation via video about a person of particular importance or movement to the history of theater (100 points)
5 total Unit Discussion Boards
Attendance and Participation: 160 points
Attendance and Your Final Grade

Participation and attendance are 25% of your grade. Each class is worth 10 points.
Between 5-10 minutes late = loss of 5 points.
10-20 minutes late = Loss of 8 points
Over 20 minutes late = zero points for the day
You are allowed one unexcused absence for free. Any absence beyond this will result in the loss of 10 points and loss of the days points for the due assignment/project.
Do not email me after an unexcused absence and ask for what you missed. It is YOUR responsibility to get a missing assignment or project.
An excused absence must include:
1. Email to professor no later than 1 hour prior to class explaining why you are missing or late.
2. A valid excuse: medical, personal, emergency, etc. WORK does not count as a valid excuse.
3. The attempt to make up missed project/work.

Late Work Policy
Late work will not be accepted.

Other Course Policies
- All students are required to practice courteous, respectful, cooperative behavior at all times, as this would be the norm in any higher education or work environment.
- Discussion Boards must be kept “school appropriate”
- Email communications must be sent in a professional manner. For example:
  NO: Prof I forgot my assign. Lol can u let me give it 2 u ltr? 😊
  YES: Professor Reasons, I was unable to upload my assignment yesterday. Can I email it to you later today?
- Assignments will be turned in ON TIME. No late assignments will be accepted.

Institutional Policies
Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

Eastfield Institutional Policies (http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)
Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course has 3 Unit Folders.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each folder contains all the material needed to complete it- Video Lecture, Quiz, Assignment List</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments include:</td>
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</table>
| -Attendance to 2 Live plays (Selected from streaming list-Must be seen during the time frame of this class) plus written critiques. These are located in the Unit 1 sub-folder "How to Watch a Play."
| | | |
| -Discussion Boards: 6 total discussions including an introduction discussion. You must respond to at least two other student posts in each discussion board.
| | | |
| FINAL PROJECT | | |
| -The final discussion board is a video presentation over a significant figure in contemporary theatre. This project is worth 100 points. | | |
| -4 total Unit Quizzes | | |
| ANY EVIDENCE OF CHEATING AND/OR PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC "0" ON THE ASSIGNMENT. | | |

Assignments, Quizzes and Discussion Boards

July 8

Discussion Boards 1 and 2 for course FA Certification + respond to two other student posts

July 10

Unit 1 Quizzes

July 15

Unit 2 Quiz and Discussion Board + respond to two other student posts

July 22

UNIT 3 Quiz and Discussion Boards + respond to two other student posts
July 29

Play Critique 1

August 3

Play Critique 2

August 4
Final project Oral Presentation Video in Discussion Board

August 5
Must respond to at least 2 other Final Projects by 12 p.m.

All assignments must be in PDF or Microsoft format. Google Doc applications will not work in ecampus- I will not be able to access them.