"The Theatre is one of the few places left in the bright and noisy world where we sit in the quiet dark together, to be awake."
-Sarah Ruhl

"Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to."
-William Dafoe

Instructor Information
Ashley Meyer, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)
Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu
Office: Carr EFA | Room 160 | Direct line: 325.486.6194
Office Hours: | 11AM-12PM and 1PM- 2PM M/W, 9:30AM-12:30PM T/TH, 12PM-1PM F, or by appointment

Course Meeting Information
Mondays and Wednesdays | 2:30-3:45PM | Carr E/FA 241A

Required Text
Letters to a Young Artist | Anna Devere Smith | Anchor Books
(Design/Tech Majors) Show Case | Rafael Jaen | 2nd Edition | Elsevier (must be 2nd edition)
**Generalists and Education majors must choose which final project they wish to pursue and choose the appropriate text

Course Description
The capstone course for all areas of drama, emphasizing portfolio development and other preparation for entry into the drama profession.

Course Content
This course is a study and application of the various activities and methodologies professional theatre artists. It includes discussions, lectures, quizzes, exams, and course projects designed to analyze, evaluate, and contextualize events and trends in the contemporary theatre job market.

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1) Describe the interrelationships of their course of study in Theatre and how these courses relate to a career in the discipline.
2) Explore different graduate school requirements and create a packet of application materials.
3) Develop resume/cover letter for job and graduate school positions.
4) Complete a capstone content test in their specific discipline to demonstrate mastery level of coursework.
5) Research different regional theatre hubs and Arts support agencies.
6) Successfully complete a mock interview and independent screening of their resume.
7) Evaluate their individual transcripts to determine a variety of potential career alternatives and learn the expectations of professionals in those fields.
8) Develop the organizational patterns, skills, and knowledge essential to excel in the professional world of theatre or in graduate school.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes
This course will use a “point system” for all work, including tests and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Balloon</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume/Cover Letter/Headshot</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad School Packet</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Agency Discussion</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Hub Discussion (partner)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audition/Portfolio</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Interview</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access.

1) **Red Balloon**: Worth 25 points. Each student will carry a red balloon on their person at all times for one week (provisions made for employment and safety). Students will not discuss the assignment with those not in the class, including following the conclusion of the course so as not to ruin the experience for future students. (Outcome 1, 2)

2) **Resume/Cover Letter/Headshot**: Worth 25 points for each assignment for a total of 75 points. The student will create an appropriate theatre-based resume and cover letter. These elements will be completed in two parts. The first part will be critiqued by the class as a whole, and then returned to the student for revision before the final submission. A session for headshots will be set up for the class. Proofs will be made available to each student who will select 5 to share with the class for critique. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 3, 7, 8)

3) **Grad School Packet**: Worth 100 points. Each student will prepare a graduate application packet for a theatre graduate school of their choosing. The packet must be complete with requirements from the school, and elements created to complete the requirements. Students must also research the GRE and find information regarding costs and dates. (Handouts to follow) (Outcome 2)

4) **Art Agency Discussion**: Worth 25 points. Each student will be assigned an agency (found in the back of the Letters text and from list provided by instructor). The student should prepare a one-page handout (with cited resources) and give a brief overview of their agency to last 5 minutes. The information should be relevant to the class and present information as to the value of the agency to a theatre artist. (Handout to follow) (Outcome 1, 5, 8)

5) **Regional Hub Discussion (partner)**: Worth 25 points. Each student will be assigned a partner to lead the class discussion over a regional theatre hub. The team should prepare a handout and give a brief overview of theatres in the region, cost of living, and other important items to a theatre artist. Each team will choose one of the following hubs (no duplicate presentations): Atlanta, Chicago, Orlando, Seattle, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Houston, Pittsburgh/Cleveland, DFW, Austin, New York City, Washington DC, and Charlotte. (Handouts to follow) (Outcome 1, 5, 8)

6) **Website**: Worth 100 points. Each student will create an appropriate personal theatrical website to market themselves as a theatre professional. Production photos, videos, resumes headshots, and samples of design/performance work are among the areas to be considered for the webpage. This assignment will be completed in two parts. The first part will be critiqued by the class as a whole, and the returned to the student for revision before the final submission. (Handouts to follow). (Outcome 7, 8)

7) **Pop Reading Quizzes**: Random, pop reading quizzes will be given. Ten (10) quizzes will be given at random throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth ten (10) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points possible. The questions will be related to the assigned readings (textbooks and assigned articles). Completing assigned readings will insure success in these assignments. (Outcome 1, 8)

8) **Audition/Portfolio**: Worth 200 points. Each student must complete either an audition or a portfolio presentation. The grading for this assignment will come with 50% from the faculty and 50% from guest theatre professionals. Education and Generalist majors will choose either an audition or portfolio tailored to their educational job search. (Handouts to follow) (Outcome 1, 4, 7, 8)

9) **Mock Interview**: Worth 100 points. Each student will create an application for a “mock” theatrical job with either SABA, ACT, or Be Theatre. The application will go to the artistic director of the appropriate company, who will arrange for a “mock” interview for the position. (Handouts to follow). (Outcome 6, 8)
10) **Capstone Exam**: Worth 150 points. The final exam for this course is in the form of a capstone exam. The questions will cover theatre courses taken in the course of each student’s area of study (design or performance book, articles, and discussions. The GRE can be taken in lieu of the final exam. A student who chooses this option must notify the professor at the time of GRE registration (submitting proof of registration) and submit the GRE before the final exam period. A score conversion will be applied to calculate your final exam grade. (Handouts to follow) *(Outcomes 1, 4, 7, 8)*

11) **Participation**: Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions, initiating classroom discussion, and participating fully in all classroom activities with a positive attitude. Students are also expected to demonstrate growth in all objective areas on a daily basis. (Handout to follow). If your final point count is between two grades, participation will be taken into account to raising or lowering the grade. *(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)*

**Grading**
Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale. You must earn the number of points listed below to receive the grade you want.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-970</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>969-920</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919-890</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>889-850</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>849-810</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>809-780</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>779-750</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>749-710</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>709-660</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>659-620</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619-590</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>589-550</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>549-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Content Disclosure**
Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**Electronics Policy**
Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned completely off (not just silenced) the moment you enter the studio and must remain off during the class period. Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam/performance will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Computers and iPads can be used in class for the purpose of note taking and research. Students misusing their computers (i.e. being on-line, or on social media) will lose their computer privileges for the duration of the course. Be physically and mentally present.

**Course Work Load**
According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour of lecture. The instructor anticipates that out-of-class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students. All assignments are due by the start of class. Anything received after the start of class is considered late.
Late Work: Written work is accepted late; however, for every day late the assignment will automatically lose a letter grade. If an assignment is turned in after class has ended, that will count as a day late. If an assignment is turned in three days late, it automatically loses a full three letter grades. Pop reading quizzes must be made up within one week of missing a pop quiz. Exams may be made up within one week, excluding the final exam. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule make ups. In-class presentations and performances cannot be made up.

Attendance Policy
Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed two (2) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment.

Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at last one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day
Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112 if you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)
A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

Honor Code Policy
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf
Civility In the Classroom
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.

If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

Sexual Harassment
This course will observe the university’s guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human living, and because sexuality is part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations and language. Those who are easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.
Spring 2018 Syllabus Contract
Return this signed page to the instructor
Due August 30th

I__________________________have read the TH 4301 syllabus and understand its contents. I will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

____________________
Student Name

____________________                            ________________
Student Signature                                       Date