Theories of Dramatic Production
TH 4341 | Fall 2018

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: | M/W 2:30 PM-4:30 PM, T/TH 9:30 AM-10:50 AM, or by appointment

Course Meeting Information
Mondays and Wednesdays | 1:00-2:15PM | Carr 241A

Required Text
Theatre/Theory/Theatre: The Major critical Texts from Aristotle and Zeami to Soyinka and Havel | Daniel Gerould
Various Articles (pdf copies on Blackboard)

Course Description

Course Content
This course is a study and application of various performance theories/theorists and how the theatre teacher can implement this knowledge in the classroom. From choosing material that reflects the teacher’s aesthetics and goals to effectively marketing a chosen season. It includes discussions, lectures, and course projects designed to analyze, evaluate, and contextualize dramatic production in the contemporary educational program.

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1) Describe how theatre theory has developed through the ages
2) Demonstrate a variety of production approaches and educational theatre theories developed by theatre directors
3) Effectively analyze a theatrical production’s ability to be produced
4) Present notions of theatrical ideas and production models
5) Effectively plan a realized production(s) of a play with an understanding of its production elements

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes
This course will use a “point system” for all work, including tests and participation. There are 1300 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>The Flick Critique</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Summary</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theorist Presentation</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1) **The Flick Critique**: Worth 150. Students will submit a formal, 2-page written critique of ASU’s production of The Flick. Students will also deliver a 10-12 minute verbal critique of the production as though they are responding to the production team directly. (Handouts to follow) **(Outcomes 2, 3, 4)**
2) **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 (textbook and assigned articles). Completing assigned readings will insure success in these assignments. *(Outcome 1, 2, 3, 4)*

3) **Article Summary**: Worth 50 points each for a total of 100 points. Students will write a formal 1-2 page response to and summary of a formal theatre article. *(Outcomes 1, 2, 4)*

4) **Theorist Presentation**: Worth 150 points. Students will deliver an engaging 50 minute lesson over a theatre theorist/practioner from the approved list. This is an opportunity to practice teaching with feedback. Handouts to follow *(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)*

5) **Final Project**: Worth 300 points. Each Student will complete a final project that demonstrates their ability to articulate their own aesthetic informed by specific theorists or practitioners. The project will be a season plan for a hypothetical educational program including justifications, calendars, budgets, and marketing. *(Handouts to follow.) (2, 3, 4, 5)*

6) **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). (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)*

**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>
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<tr>
<td>779-750</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>749-710</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>709-660</td>
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<td>659-620</td>
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<tr>
<td>589-550</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>549-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blackboard**

This course utilizes ASU’s Blackboard system. Access to Blackboard is thru Ramport. Please familiarize yourself with how Blackboard functions, as it is key to your success in this course. All discussions, assignments will be turned in and all quizzes and tests will be taken via Blackboard. You can also see your grades in the My Grades area on Blackboard.

Help with Blackboard is provided thru Technology Services. It can be found on the Support tab in Blackboard or by going to [http://blackboard.angelo.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=1_1](http://blackboard.angelo.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=1_1)

**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.

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. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule make ups. In-class presentations 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 least 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 <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.
Fall 2018 Syllabus Contract
Return this signed page to the instructor
Due August 29th

I__________________________have read the TH 4341 syllabus and understand its contents. I
will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

__________________________
Student Name

__________________________  ________________
Student Signature            Date