

TH1310: Introduction to Dramatic Art

Class Syllabus

Prof. Ashley Meyer

Fall 2019

Section 010-MWF 10-10:50am



COURSE DESCRIPTION

A historical survey of the development of dramatic art; introduction to contemporary theatre practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) about theatre
2. Learning fundamental principles of theatre
3. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of theatre

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The student will develop a comprehensive overview of the nature and development of theatre
2. The student will be able to identify the different artists involved in creating theatre and apply criteria to the contributions of each of these artists
3. The student will examine how theatre reflects the assumptions of a culture and how theatre artists use their medium to express their belief or disbelief in those systems
4. The student will identify and evaluate criteria for theatre art
5. The student will apply criteria to plays read or viewed & form articulated responses to plays and performances
6. The student will recognize the collaborative nature of theatre – audience, playwrights, directors, actors, designers

CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

CT1: Analysis of assigned play performances & evaluate them for the elements of drama. Compare theatre through history with modern theatre and its role in society

CS1: Write analyses of performances. Analyze the stage design and visual elements of the productions viewed

TW1: The student will complete discussion groups

SR1: Written analysis of plays whose theme involves social justice and change

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Daily Class Attendance: Attendance in class is required.

Class Discussion: You contribute to the learning environment and demonstrate your understanding of the material through participation in discussion, both in class and on Blackboard.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes for each chapter and film viewed in class.

Play Attendance/Critiques: You are to view and critique 2 University Theatre productions.

Exams: There will be 3 exams, each covering a section of theatre, and a comprehensive final exam.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Ashley Meyer , Director of University Theatre

E-mail: Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu

Phone: 325.486.6191

Office Hours: 9:00AM-12:00PM T/TH, or by appointment

Office: Carr EFA, Room 164

GRADING POLICY

Grade Distribution (with competency for learning outcome given):

Quizzes—21 (1,2,3,4,6)	20%
Tests—4 (1,2,3,4,6)	50%
Play Attendance/Critiques (2,3,4,5,6)	15%
Class Discussion/Attendance (1,2,3,4,5,6)	15%
Total	100%

A 90.0 - 100

B- 80.0 - 89.9

C 70.0 - 79.9

D 60.0 - 69.9

F 00.0 - 59.9

Core Learning Objectives competency

Quizzes—21 (CT1, CS1)

Tests—4 (CT1, CS1)

Play Attendance/Critiques (CT1, CS1, SR1)

Class Discussion/Attendance (CT1, CS1, SR1)

The grade of “C” is given for work that completes all of the assignment requirements and is submitted on time. Grades “A” or “B” are given for work that meets the “C” requirements and clearly demonstrates **thought** and **development** in appropriate skills and aesthetic understanding.

I will **NOT** accept any late assignments, except due to excused illnesses. Each assignment has been created so that it emphasizes the current topic in class and prepares the foundations for the next project. Skipping an assignment will more than likely be a hindrance and detrimental to your work on the proceeding assignments.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS

As stated in the ASU Operating Policy and Procedure (OP10.03) 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 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 OP10.03 at www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

TEXT

Revel Explore Theatre, 2nd edition – Michael M. O’Hara & Judith A. Sebesta (2nd edition instant access code)

- this is an online textbook available at <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/azioje>. You must purchase a student access code to access the text online.

It is understood that you will read each chapter prior to arriving in class on the day it is due. It is also permissible to share texts, though it will be difficult at times throughout the semester.

How to Register for Explore Theatre:

You will need:

- **Your school’s zip code: 76909**
- **A student access code (acquired after purchasing the text)**
- **A valid email address.**
- **You will receive the course invited from your professor from the Pearson website in your email**

Get started by going to:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/azioje>

It will prompt you to register for the course with your access code, or to purchase the access code directly so that you can register.

To Sign in to Your Course Again Later

- Return to <http://www.pearsonexploretheatre.com/>
- Click Log in and enter your Login name and password. Click Login.

Need Help? Assistance is available <http://247.support.pearsoned.com>

Attendance and Participation Policy

Quality participation in class is required. Students contribute to the learning environment and demonstrate their understanding of the material by participation. Therefore, class attendance is required and the attendance policy is as follows:

- **Attendance will be at the beginning of each class period. 0-5 minutes late will count as a tardy. Students who are more than 5 minutes late for class will be considered absent for that class. Tardiness and leaving class early is seriously frowned upon. Leaving class early will count as a tardy. Two (2) tardies or leaving class early count as 1 absence..**
- My attendance policy is strict. Missing classes means missing a lot of information. Missing 4 classes will lower your final grade by 10%. Every 3 missed after that will result in another 10% reduction.
- Students who are late for class on presentation days will only be given the allotted class time to complete their presentation.
- Students representing ASU (traveling groups, class field trips, etc.) will be granted an excused absence, but prior notification must be given to me in writing at least one week in advance.
- Remember, an absence is not an excuse for a late assignment. If you have prior knowledge of your absence, please turn in your assignment prior to your absence.
- Online Class days still count towards attendance. This is done by you logon on and completing the discussion board and quiz. If you fail to complete the discussion board(s) and quiz(s), you will be counted absent for that class period.

Rationale:

I value attendance and participation. A class is only as useful as the time you put into it, and, more than lecturing, I think we learn from active discussion and debate.

Base Score:

Participation includes coming to class and participating, if not in the large class discussion, in the smaller groups at least. If you are reserved, I understand, and I won't ask you to do anything that I might assign in class that an actor might enjoy. But, oral communication is a key part of the theatre and it is essential that you learn to communicate as a theatre artist. Using class time to discuss non-class topics, non-engagement, and absence will eat away at your grade.

The Catch:

Worse than absence and not participating is actively detracting from the learning environment. I really, really, really, really hate having to stop the class because someone is chatting with their friends, writing notes to each other, making faces, texting, or reading the newspaper. It is disrespectful to those of your classmates who have paid good money and want to learn something. This has a far worse effect on your grade. In other words, if I have to say something to you, or if I just have a bad feeling of any kind about you that day, I will subtract points from your participation grade. If you are continually disruptive, I will ask you to leave the classroom, which will result in an absence for that day being recorded.

The Solution:

If you feel like sleeping, chatting, giggling, or being anywhere else, just don't show up. Believe me, it will be better for your grade than being asked to leave class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism: What it means to do it, and the consequences of being caught.

I was a student myself, and I understand the pressures students face in this department. It's getting close to the end of the semester and you just opened a show. You have two research papers due, a major project, and some final exams. You haven't started on your final project because you've been with your frat or sorority every night until midnight. Your lab partner has been flaking out on you. You've fallen behind in all of your classes - and you don't particularly like anything we've studied in this class. Really - you'd rather deal with any other assignments than think about theatre.

Understandable. You can cut down on all of this, you think, if you just find some quick material on the internet on a play and copy it in, work in some of the material from your friend's notes (you didn't go to class the day we discussed it), and "voila!" A paper! Worse yet, you find just the paper you're looking for from the internet. Only \$10 a page... this is too perfect!

After the final exam you get an email from me telling you that your paper seems to match another one found online. It will be investigated. You find yourself in a disciplinary hearing - your scholarship is revoked, you flunk Intro to Drama or, worse, you are expelled from the University.

You want to finish your degree elsewhere. You audition for another grad program. They'd take you in a heartbeat, they say, but it appears that you were expelled from a school for academic misconduct; they can't possibly admit you to the program. Other graduate programs turn you down. Employers for stupid bank jobs even balk at your record. You waste your life working in an insurance office job that your loser brother got you in Kalamazoo.

Materials that are available for you to plagiarize are available to me to review. I have read most of the printed sources you are likely to use, and I also can purchase ready-made essays from the same vendors...if they can sell to you, what is to stop them from making money from me? Plagiarism is a lousy shortcut, not just because it leads to the tragic scenario I outlined above, but also because:

1. Projects and Papers put together from lifted sources are usually of poor quality. If you think the people who produce these papers for hire are better writers than you, think again. They are usually 'C' quality papers at best.
2. You lose my respect, and the respect of others on faculty. It will affect the way we evaluate you in the future.
3. You cheat yourself of an opportunity to learn. I don't assign projects for my own enjoyment! I assign papers because I want to give you an opportunity to explore in greater depth a topic you find interesting. I want to help you learn to be a better writer - to organize your thoughts, to think on a deeper level, and to analyze materials more effectively. What a great opportunity! You paid a lot of money for such an opportunity - and you cheat yourself of that. Think of how much money you are wasting by just 'getting by.'

Remember: Any paper you write yourself, with your own research, will usually be good enough for a 'B' grade or better. I appreciate the effort a student puts into a research project. Find a topic you like. ASK ME if you have any problems. I am happy to help you - even if you have to remind me a gazillion times. I take plagiarism very seriously, and I WILL catch you. I'm terribly zealous about it. So, don't do it.

The above text was taken from <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jewestla/plagiarism.html> and adapted in places to fit this course.

Academic Honor Code

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

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 942-2710.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325- 942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Incomplete Grades

The grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I's.

Instructor's Philosophy

I believe students are as much responsible for their own education as their professors are. It is imperative that students read the required assignment before coming to class. In class we can clarify and synthesize the information you have read and add real life examples and situations for better understanding. Please come to class with an open mind, willingness to speak, and an enthusiasm for participation.

Successful class participations includes respectful and active contribution to class discussions that demonstrate comprehension of the material and preparation for class, as well as raising relevant and pertinent questions about the material in an effort to better understand and evaluate the assigned readings and their relationship to theatre.

Please be aware that this class may sometimes use materials or engage in discussions of ideas that you personally find objectionable. It is expected that you will participate fully in all activities of the class. Keep in mind that reading and witnessing something that you find difficult or objectionable does not imply that you believe or embrace that thing. From time to time, I may offer points of view that are geared to stimulate discussion or encourage independent thinking, not necessarily my personal beliefs or points of view.

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

Discussion and Participation Rubric to follow

A Note about Questions

Every semester I get tons of questions about content in the course. Most of the time, the answer is easily found on either Blackboard or in the Syllabus. Therefore, if your question can be answered by checking either of those sources, I will not answer it.

Formating/Paper Requirements

- All written assignments are to be TYPED using either Times New Roman, Arial, Century, or Cambria, in Size 12 of course.
- Double-spaced.
- All written assignments should be well thought-out and in complete sentences. (FYI: Yes. No. are not complete sentences!)
- Don't forget: Spell check is your friend!
- Proof reading helps a lot, too!
- Papers must be saved in Microsoft Word format (either .doc or .docx). If it is not in this format, I will not grade it and you will get a failing grade for the assignment.
- All Assignments will need to be submitted via Blackboard by the assignment deadline. I will not accept printed papers.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.

Quizzes

There will be 21 short quizzes, each covering a chapter of the text and the six video viewings. Quiz dates can be found on the course calendar.

Quizzes are given via Blackboard. The grading module will open at midnight the day of the quiz, and will close at 11:59pm on the same day. You must complete the quiz during that 24 hour time frame. You will have one 30 minute opportunity during that window to complete the quiz (you cannot "come and go" from the quiz). Once you enter the quiz do not hit back, log out, shut down, or do anything else on your computer. If you do so, you will not be allowed back into the quiz, and you will receive a 0 (zero) for that quiz. Your grade will be automatically given to you at the completion of the quiz.

It goes without saying that Academic Honesty is expected on the Quizzes. No "group-quiz-taking" or sharing of answers is allowed. To discourage dishonesty, each quiz is randomly generated from a bank of questions. No two quizzes are alike.

Exams

There will be 4 exams. 3 are given at the end of each module, covering a section of the class. Though the first 3 exams are not cumulative, you may be asked to compare previous era's with ones covered on the test. The 4th is the Final Exam.

Exams are given via Blackboard. The grading module will open at midnight the day of the exam, and will close at 11:59pm on the same day. You must complete the quiz during that 24 hour time frame. You will have one 75 minute opportunity during that window to complete the exam. You cannot "come and go" from the exam. Once you enter the exam do not hit back, log out, shut down, or do anything else on your computer. If you do so, you will not be allowed back into the exam and you will receive a 0 (zero) for that exam. Your grade will be automatically given to you at the completion of the exam.

It goes without saying that Academic Honesty is expected on the Exams. No "group-test-taking" or sharing of answers is allowed. To discourage dishonesty, each exam is randomly generated from a bank of questions. No two exams are alike.

**If you have perfect attendance (in face to face and online classes) thru May 4th, then you have the option of not taking the final exam. If you choose this option, your average of the first 3 exams will be entered for the final exam.

Performance Attendance/Critiques

For this particular class, you will be required to attend the 2 live theatrical productions presented by the University Theatre. For each production, you will complete a critique.

This semester, the required productions are *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *Fun Home*. The most cost-effective way for this to happen is for you to attend the Final Dress Rehearsal the night before the show opens to the public. If you can't make it to Final Dress, you'll have to pay for a student ticket like everyone else. Please, get your tickets in advance. Waiting until the last performance will put you at a disadvantage. Production critiques will be entered into Blackboard. These papers are designed to get you to put your impressions (likes, dislikes, etc.) of the show into a coherent expression of words. I don't grade you on WHAT YOUR OPINION IS, I grade these on how well you support your opinion. Copying another person's production critique (or collaborating with another student on this paper) WILL result in at least a zero (0) for the assignment for both students—and could result in an "F" for the course and disciplinary action from the Dean.

Critique requirements and grading rubric are available on Blackboard.
Attendance is required for both of ASU Theatre's fall Mainstage productions.

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui by Bertolt Brecht | ASU Auditorium Theatre, Administration Building
Rated M for mature audiences for adult language, themes of violence, history, and politics
Student Sneak Peek is Wednesday October 9 at 8:00PM
October 10-October 13 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM only on October 13

Fun Home by Lisa Kron | ASU Modular Theatre
Rated Pg-13 for adult language and themes, some sexuality
Student Sneak Peek is Wednesday November 13 at 8:00PM
November 14-November 16 | 8:00PM Nightly
November 21-November 24 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM only on November 24

Optional Extra Credit Performance to replace lowest quiz grade
Gruesome Playground Injuries by Rajiv Joseph | ASU Studio Theatre, Carr Education-Fine Arts Building
Rated Pg-13 for adult language and themes, some sexuality
Student Sneak Peek is Thursday, October 3 at 8:00PM
October 4-October 5 | 8:00PM Nightly

For extra credit, you may to attend up to 3 live theatrical productions produced by either another college/university, a local established community theatre, or a professional theatre company, but it may not be your church's Christmas pageant, your little sister's high school production, or an "improv" / comedy show. If you are not sure that a performance you are planning to attend fits the criteria. Be sure to ask me first, not later. You may attend these extra credit theatrical productions at any time throughout the semester. Once you have attended the performance, you will complete a critique for the production. The critique, a scan of the coverpage and cast/production staff from your program, and a scan of your ticket stub are due for the full extra credit amount (each extra credit critique may count up to ½ of a Critique grade).

Extra credit critiques are due no later than Friday, April 27 to my email.

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assessment Due		
M	26-Aug	Introduction to the Class/Syllabus		Quiz Syllabus	Module 1
W	28-Aug	What is Performance?	Ch 1	Quiz 1	
F	30-Aug	The Text (a)			
M	2-Sep	No Class: Labor Day			
W	4-Sep	The Text (b)	Ch 2		
F	6-Sep	ONLINE CLASS - CH2 Videos		Quiz 2	
M	9-Sep	Who Decides What is a Good Performance (a)	Ch 3		
W	11-Sep	Who Decides What is a Good Performance (b)	Ch 3		
F	13-Sep	ONLINE CLASS - CH3 Videos		Quiz 3	
M	16-Sep	Where Can Performance Be Done (a)	Ch 4		
W	18-Sep	Where Can Performance Be Done (b)/Producing Theatre	Ch 4	Quiz 4	
F	20-Sep	ONLINE CLASS - Shakespeare Behind Bars		Quiz SBB	
M	23-Sep	ONLINE CLASS - Into The Woods		Quiz ITW	
W	25-Sep	Discuss <i>Shakespeare Behind Bars</i> and <i>Into the Woods</i>			
F	27-Sep	No class: Study for test 1, professor at recruiting event			
M	30-Sep	TEST 1 - ONLINE		TEST 1	Module 2
W	2-Oct	Playwrights & Directors	Ch 5 & 6		
F	4-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - CH5 & 6 Videos		Quiz 5 & 6	
M	7-Oct	Scenic & Costume Designers	Ch 7		
W	9-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - CH7 Videos			
W	9-Oct	<i>Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui, ASU Auditorium 7:45 pm</i>			
F	11-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - CH7 Videos			
M	14-Oct	Discuss Ch7 Videos		Quiz 7	
W	16-Oct	Lighting, Sound Designers & Technical Production	Ch 8		
F	18-Oct	Styles of Scenery		Quiz 8	
M	21-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - Behind the Scenes		Quiz BTS	
W	23-Oct	Actors	Ch 9	<i>Arturo Ui Critique</i>	
F	25-Oct	Improv Acting			
M	28-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - CH9 Videos		Quiz 9	
W	30-Oct	ONLINE CLASS - Rent		Quiz <i>Rent</i>	
F	1-Nov	In Class Discussion - Behind the Scenes & <i>Rent</i>			
M	4-Nov	TEST 2 - ONLINE		TEST 2	Module 3
W	6-Nov	Backstage	Ch 10 & 11	Quiz 10 & 11	
F	8-Nov	Musical Theatre	Ch 12		
M	11-Nov	ONLINE CLASS - CH12 Videos		Quiz 12	
W	13-Nov	<i>Fun Home, ASU Modular Theatre 7:45 pm</i>			
W	13-Nov	ONLINE CLASS - True West	Ch 13		
F	15-Nov	Film		Quiz TW	
M	18-Nov	ONLINE CLASS - CH13 Videos		Quiz 13	
W	20-Nov	ONLINE CLASS - Sing Faster		Quiz <i>Sing Faster</i>	
F	22-Nov	ONLINE CLASS - CH14 Videos	Ch 14		
M	25-Nov	Discuss True West & Sing Faster		Quiz 14	
W	27-Nov	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday			
F	29-Nov	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday			
M	2-Dec	Test 3 Review			
W	4-Dec	TEST 3 - ONLINE		TEST 3	
F	6-Dec	Review course, Final Exam, and course evaluations		<i>Fun Home Critique</i>	
M	9-Dec	FINAL EXAM - ONLINE		FINAL EXAM	

*Perfect attendance = avg of 3 exams for final exam grade

**Do not come to class on "Online" days