

## Introduction to Dramatic Art TH 1310|

“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

### Instructor Information

Daniel Anderson, M.F.A. daniel.anderson@angelo.edu  
Office: Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, Room 164  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays | 1:00PM-3:00PM Zoom appointments only.

### Course Meeting Information

MWF 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM CARR 101

### Required Text

*The Theatre Experience (Connect eBook)* | Edwin Wilson | 14th Edition | McGraw Hill Education  
(instructions for registering for the online portion of the course can be found here  
<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/d-anderson-intro-to-dramatic-arts-spring-22>

Reference link for Students: <https://video.mhhe.com/watch/UZnyThhiZgbh3pKQFBiQUZ>

***Since the majority of your assignments will be found in this book, it is imperative you purchase this book.***

**Covid Policy: While masks and vaccines are not required, they are widely accepted as our best defense against the Covid-19 virus and its variations. Remember all students are required to complete their Daily Wellness Screening before coming to class.**

### Course Description

A historical survey of the development of the dramatic arts and an introduction to contemporary theatre practices.

### Course Content

This course is a study and application of the various activities and methods of theatrical practice. It includes discussions, assignments, and lectures designed to analyze and evaluate all aspects of the theatre experience: scripts, design, acting, directing, staging, history and criticism.

***Attendance at representative plays is required. This course satisfies three hours of the Creative Arts requirement in the Core Curriculum.***

### 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

### 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

### **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

#### **Creative Arts Foundational Component Area Content**

##### **Description**

1) Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of human imagination.

2) Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative and innovative communication about works of arts.

### **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Core Objectives**

**1) Critical Thinking Skills (CT):** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers, quizzes, exams. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on the written critiques and creative projects, synthesizing their knowledge of the class to accurately critique performances and create examples of theatrical works in production.

**2) Communication Skills (CS):** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers, quizzes, exams. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on the discussion questions and analyses designed for greater communication of interpretations concerning theatre works whether live or in written texts.

**3) Teamwork (T):** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on group discussions and creative projects designed for collaboration in the arts.

**4) Social Responsibility (SR):** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers. 90% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better in discussions as they reflect on their civic responsibilities when creating art, and the way in which theatrical art binds different cultures together.

### **Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes**

This course will use a “point system” for all work, including test and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>Total Assignments</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1400</b>
<b>SmartBook Chapter Readings</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Play Attendance</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Group Creative Project</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Participation/Discussion</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>7000</b>		

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

**1) Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given for each chapter and video set. Fourteen (14) quizzes will be given, and each quiz will be worth one hundred (100) points, for a total of fourteen hundred (1400) points possible. The questions will be related to the assigned readings or assigned video. Completing assigned readings will ensure success in these assignments. (Outcomes 2, 5, 8)

**2) SmartBook Chapter Readings:** Worth one hundred (100) points for each assigned reading, for a total of twelve hundred (1200) points possible. The SmartBook chapters track the reading and content comprehension for each chapter. Instructions for registering as a student on Connect are in an additional handout. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)

**3) Play Attendance:** Worth four hundred and fifty (450) points for each production for a total of nine hundred (900) points total. As this course explores the elements of live in-person and virtual theatre, students are expected to experience both. Students are given ample time to schedule their viewing of the productions hosted by Angelo State University Theatre, and productions are free to all ASU students.

Attendance as a respectful and informed audience member at both productions is expected. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

**4) Group Creative Project:** Worth fifteen hundred (1500) points. The purpose of this project is that students will try their hand at a couple elements of theatre. The class will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned a play. The group will present a unified production for their production. Production roles might include, but are not limited to: dramaturgy, set designer, costume designer, sound designer and makeup designer. Additional information concerning this project will come later in the semester. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

**5) Final Exam:** One final exam, worth one thousand (1000) points. Cannot be made up. Mandatory and comprehensive essay format. (Outcomes 2, 5, 8)

**6) Participation/Discussion:** Worth one thousand (1000) points. Students will be given assignments throughout the semester. Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions and initiating classroom discussion. 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 7000-point scale.**

<b>Point Breakdown Scale</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
<b>7000-6800</b>	<b>A+</b>
<b>6799-6600</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6599-6300</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>6299-6100</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>6099-5900</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>5899-5600</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>5599-5400</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>5399-5200</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>5199-4900</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>4899-4600</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>4599-4300</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>4299-4000</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>3999-0</b>	<b>F</b>

### **In-Course Technology Use**

This course utilizes the following platforms: Blackboard, Ramport, Connect (McGraw Hill), and Zoom. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the platforms and seek the necessary help you require if you have questions. Chapters for the readings and the chapter quizzes are all in Connect (the eBook). All lecture notes, recorded lectures, PowerPoints, and lesson materials are in Blackboard. In the event of technology issues, please maintain open and honest communication. Instructions for registering on Connect are included in a separate handout.

## **Flipped Classroom Expectations**

Flipped classroom is a “pedagogical approach in which direct instruction moves from the group learning space to the individual learning space, and the resulting group space is transformed into a dynamic, interactive learning environment where the educator guides students as they apply concepts and engage creatively in the subject matter” (The Flipped Learning Network, 2014). 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 class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students. You will be expected to read the chapters, watch the pre-recorded lectures on Blackboard prior to arriving to classes by the designated deadlines. Class time is dedicated to applying the concepts of the course in practical and creative methods in addition to understanding how the concepts affect and involve all educational disciplines. This means the preparation for each lecture is more in-depth on the parts of the instructor and the students. However, the learning results have proven to benefit the students when all parties put forth this effort. In our current pandemic, this also allows for the most flexibility across our diverse student cohort. In the event of a statemandated transition to a solely online environment, there will be minimum disruption to our learning environment and progress as a class.

## **Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department 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, value judgements, 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**

I invite you to be physically and mentally present in our time together, and I request that you do not allow your devices to impact the learning environment, which involves many of us, in any negative manner.

## **Course Workload**

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:** For every hour an assignment is submitted late, a 10% grade reduction will occur. Group projects cannot be submitted late. The final exam and group project must be completed by the deadline, or the assignment automatically receives a “0”. In the event of COVID-related issues, please consult with the instructor.

## **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. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. Lectures and lesson materials are provided on Blackboard, and Zoom sessions are available for clarification opportunities. In the event that you are quarantined due to COVID, please inform your instructor and do not come to class.

*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.*

## **Children in the Classroom**

I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom.

Normally, I allow children to be brought to our classrooms. However, with the current pandemic, no one besides students registered in the class are allowed in the room. If you must miss class due to your children's needs, please attend to them, and I will provide the lecture material for you.

## **Civility in the Classroom**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Higher Education is challenging, and new to many of you. We are also in an unprecedented time, and many of you are facing difficult circumstances.

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.

## **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. The

University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D. Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 325-942-2022 [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

### **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 they 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\\_PoliciesStudents/OP\\_10.03\\_Grade\\_Grievance.doc](http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_PoliciesStudents/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc) [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](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf)

### **Tentative Class Schedule:**

*All dates and assignments are subject to change.*

Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>

Introduction to the Class/Syllabus

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>

Go over Play Reports

Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>

Ch. 1-The Audience and Practical Applications

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>

Ch 1 Discussion Cont.

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>

Ch. 1 Assignments Due

Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

Ch. 2-Background

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ch.3-Theatre Spaces

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

Finish Ch Discussion



Ch 2 & 3 Assignments Due  
 Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 4-Acting for the stage  
 Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 4 Discussion Cont.  
 Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 4 Assignment Due  
 Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 5-The Director  
 Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 5-The Producer  
 Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 5 Assignments Due  
 Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> .  
 Ch 6-Creating the World of the Play  
 Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> .  
 Ch 6 Discussion Cont.  
 Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 6 Assignments Due  
 Play Report 1 Due  
 Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 8-Theatrical Genres  
 Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> .  
 Ch 8 Discussion Cont.  
 Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 8 Assignment Due  
 Video Assignment 9.11 Due  
 Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> .  


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 Ch 9 – Scenery Design  
 Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 9 Discussion Cont.  
 Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 9 Assignments Due  
 Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> .  
**Spring Break**  
 Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> .  
**Spring Break**  
 Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> .  
**Spring Break**  
 Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> .  
 Ch 10 – Costume Design  
 Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> .  
 Ch 10 Discussion Cont.  
 Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 10 Assignments  
 Due  
 Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 11 – Lighting  
 Design  
 Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> .  
 Ch 11 – Sound Design  
 Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> .

Ch 11 Assignment  
Due  
Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> .  
Group Project Discussion  
Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>  
NO CLASS  
Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> .  
NO CLASS  
Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Shakespeare Behind  
Bars Video  
Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> .  
SBB Discussion  
Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> .  
SBB Assignment Due  
Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> .  
In-Class Group Work  
Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> .  
In-Class Group Work  
Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> .  
In-Class Group Work  
Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> .  
In-Class Group Work  
Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>  
In-Class Group Work  
Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>  
In-Class Group Work  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
In-Class Presentations  
May 4<sup>th</sup>  
In-Class Presentations  
May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Last Day of Class Recap  
Play Report 2 Due

**FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:30 – 12:30**