

Theatre Research

TH 4391 | Spring 2022

Instructor Information

Rick Reeves

Visiting Professor of Theatrical Design

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Office: Carr EFA | Room 165 | Direct line: 325.942.2085

Office Hours: by appointment. Please make an appointment due to COVID. We can also meet via Zoom or facetime.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Objectives

To provide the student a knowledge of designers of color, and designers who were not born in the United States who historically or currently have influence in major Western Theatre markets.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to do quality research.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify people in the theatre industry, where they come from, and how their cultures influence their designs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of what effective interview questions are and how to use those questions to inform an audience about a specific designer.
- Demonstrate a level of skill and proficiency in the techniques of presenting visual and verbal research.

In-Course Technology: We will utilize Blackboard, Basecamp, and email for this course.

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. Additionally, I will provide electronic copies of and any supplemental reading through Blackboard and/or email.

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 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 EVALUATION: The course evaluation will be determined by the student's performance on tests, assignments and participation

Attendance Policy: You may accumulate two (2) absences before any penalty occurs. You are allowed 2 absences for whatever reason. There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an "excused" absence. Any absences after that will result in a 50 point deduction. For this class, 7 absences will result in an F for the course, regardless of your grade.

Tardiness: Students who are not in class, ready to start at the beginning of class will be marked tardy. For every three times tardy, the student will be marked absent. Please plan accordingly. Do not expect the instructor to reteach a demonstration because you arrive late. It is disruptive to the class.

Late Work: Late work is not accepted unless it is agreed upon between the student and myself beforehand.

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_PoliciesStudents/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

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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.

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.

Policy on Children in Class: Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus, a reflection of my own beliefs and commitments to student, staff and faculty parents. If you are a parent, I invite you to discuss the following accommodations with me ASAP.

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.

Note from your instructor: Our world is changing and these are challenging times. I will work to have all of our interactions be honest and meaningful. Safety is our number one priority this semester for everyone involved. Please do your part, and if you ever feel nervous or unsafe regarding your assignments, or any task you are asked to complete, please consult with the instructor immediately. If you do not feel comfortable with these course requirements, it would be best for you to take the class in different semester. -Professor Rick Reeves

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

There will be four assignments in this class. You will research a scenic designer, a costume designer, and a lighting designer of your choice. Then you will choose a fourth designer from any discipline in theatre. Two of the four designers should be interviewed via phone call or Zoom meeting. These designers need to be BIPOC or foreign born people who have worked or immigrated to the United States or Britain.

You will present an electronic, visual presentation for each designer.

Grading

In class assignments and exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Larger projects will be graded using a letter system. Criteria for evaluation include: presentation and neatness; following the assignment parameters and requirements; effectiveness of communication of ideas and concepts; sophistication and creativity of solutions to the design challenges within the assignment; and technical skills. Participation in class critiques and attendance are also considered in determining grades.

