

**Syllabus**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Creative Drama**  
**THEA 3350**  
**Tuesday 1:30p.m.-2:50p.m.**  
**Fox Fine Arts 180D**

**Format**

This class is a hybrid course; it is defined as 50-85% online instruction. This means that we will meet in person once a week (Tuesday) and you will have work to complete online through Blackboard and on your own time. Please make sure that you complete the assignments by the deadline listed. We want to use the time we are in class together to engage in meaningful and constructive conversations; this can only occur if you complete the work prior to coming to class. The module for each week will open no later than 10a.m. the Friday before. Once a module is open it will stay open for the rest of the semester; all assignments will close at their assigned deadline. Please note that all deadlines are in Mountain Standard Time (MST).

**Course Instructor:** Adriana Dominguez

Mailbox: Department of Theatre and Dance, FOX FINE ARTS 371D

**Course Instructor & Contact Information**

Adriana Domínguez (she|ella)

Mailbox: Department of Theatre and Dance, Fox Fine Arts 371D

E-mail: [adrianad@utep.edu](mailto:adrianad@utep.edu)

Prospect Hall 126

915-747-5502

Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30a.m.-12p.m.

E-mail: [adrianad@utep.edu](mailto:adrianad@utep.edu)

I will typically respond to e-mails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday and 48 hours Thursday-Sunday unless otherwise noted. Please make sure that you utilize proper etiquette.

Text number: 575-265-0687

You can TEXT me any immediate questions about the course Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m. (MST) VIOLATIONS of these time restrictions will result in reduced use of text.

\*I ask that you look over the syllabus before asking a question.

Please note that all deadlines are in Mountain Standard Time (MST).

**Content Description**

This course is designed to construct a foundation for the understanding and appreciation of theatre through creating performed works based on children's stories and literature. There will be writing, acting, prop creations, and staging through three major assignments in the course.

**Learning Objectives**

- 1) Students will gain the skills to conduct creative exercises in the classroom.

- 2) Students will gain an understanding of how to adjust previously written work and adapt to new work.
- 3) Students will learn about and create found item puppetry.
- 4) Students will write and reflect about personal learning progress and be a part of a larger learning community.

### **Important dates**

Classes Begin:	1/16
Census Date:	1/31
Spring Break:	3/9-3/17 (I will be unavailable)
Last Day for W:	3/28
Last Day of Class:	5/2
Final Exam:	5/9
Final grades officially available to students:	5/16

### **Required Text/Materials**

1. Active UTEP Blackboard Shell for this class
2. Adobe Reader – Here is the link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

### **Course Policies and Procedures**

#### Blackboard

Blackboard is a tool that allows faculty to add resources for students to access online. Assignment and schedule details as well as assignment grading can be found on Blackboard. If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it.

Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus, and readings will be on Blackboard unless otherwise noted.

Blackboard is tied to my.utep.edu. If you are properly registered for the class, you are enrolled in Blackboard as well.

Go to: <https://my.utep.edu>, log in, and click on Blackboard.

IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard often to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will be posted in the Announcement area.

#### Class Attendance

<http://catalog.utep.edu/policies-regulations/attendance-grading/#text>

The student is expected to maintain a consistent presence in this course.

IF you are late to class please WAIT until the person speaking is done; this is about respect.

#### Illnesses

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. There is a large point spread in this class in order to provide that buffer when life happens. UTEP is no longer asking employees and students to report positive COVID-19 test results to the University. However, if

you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, please email [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu) for assistance.

### Deadline Policy

Late submissions will not be graded. Please ensure that you carefully read all instructions. Reading the instructions is your responsibility and you should not assume due dates or times. Work can be submitted before the deadline time/date. Note that all assignments have a stated deadline. If you are unable to find an assignment link, it is very likely that the deadline has passed which is why you cannot access the link. If you have CASS accommodations, please be aware that any extensions must be communicated with the professor in a timely manner as indicated by CASS policy.

### Upload Instructions

Upload written work as a **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files.** Name them as follows: your last name\_assignment(no spaces)\_date(mmddyy). All assignments are due at 11:59p.m. (MST) unless otherwise noted.

example: lopez\_finalpresentation\_012524

For video and audio links, make sure that your links can be accessed by anyone who has the link.

I will not be spending time tracking students down to resubmit if a file does not open.

### **Grading & Assignments\***

111–88 points = A\*\*

88 – 76 points = B

75 –64 points = C

63 – 53 points = D

53 – 0 points = F

\*We are all here to learn; this course is not designed to trick you, overwhelm you, or pick at incidentals.

\*\*With extra credit (10 points) there are 111 points available in this course.

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Please note that there is a HUGE point spread to get an A and a B. Life happens, so there is a nice cushion. Because there is that cushion, do not ask for any additional extra credit.

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an

incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Work will be graded in a timely manner.

### **Blackboard Assignments      41 points**

There are several assignments that you must submit through Blackboard. The first is an introductory exercise and the remaining assignments require uploads of the progress of the major projects and reflections on presentations and projects.

### **Major Projects                      45 points**

There are three major projects in the course each of which will be presented IN class.

#### **Creative Exercise      10 points**

Students will create and engage classmates in a creative exercise with purpose. IF any materials are required, the student must provide them. Do not ask classmates to do any major physical work and be aware that individuals have different levels of comfort.

#### **Puppet Tale                      15 points**

Students will adapt an already-written tale and share their adaptation through puppetry in a live presentation in class.

#### **Final Project                      20 points**

Students will change a play or children's book into a new creation of their choosing incorporating what has been learned and experienced in the class. Note, this should not be a repeat of the Puppet Tale project (even if puppets are utilized again).

### **Performance Attendance              15 points**

Students must attend the UTEP productions of *Los empeños de una casa* and *Person(HOOD)*. You must sign in at the end of the show and I will receive a copy of attendance. If you do not sign in and/or fail to sign in utilizing proper procedures, you will not receive credit.

Do note that there are opportunities to usher for the productions and see the show for free; links will open on Blackboard one month prior to opening night.

*We Will Rock You* at the UTEP Dinner Theatre is extra credit: 5 points.

Attending the Alicia Gaspar de Alba lecture on Feb. 8 is extra credit: 5 points.

### **Subject Matter**

The performing arts have the power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable reading/viewing. If you have concerns about reading or discussing specific subjects, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

**The Center for Accommodations and Support Services**

Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Please be aware that accommodation requests must come from the student and prior to submission deadlines.

Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

**Scholastic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Some of your coursework and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## Resources

### Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

### Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

### Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu)
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **Student Agreements**

Student agrees to treat fellow students, UTEP faculty and staff, with respect and collaborate with all group members in a professional manner.

Student understands that copyright laws protect the materials used in this class.

Student will refrain from any public or private distribution of all materials provided and/or created in this course.

Student understands that any superimposed copyright on materials may not be “letterboxed” or covered over in any way.

Student will not upload the aforementioned materials to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, facebook/Meta, Instagram, or any other Web Publishing System.

Student will not exhibit any of the materials provided and student work created in this course and shared on Blackboard in any public venue without express and written permission of the copyright holder.

### Student Responsibility

You are responsible for seeing that all of your equipment and software are up to date or that you get yourself to a lab, library, etc. where you can meet the requirements of the class.

It is very important that you follow directions carefully. You must submit all of your work correctly. If you fail to properly submit your work you will not receive credit for the assignment.

Here is an example of improperly submitting work: Student opens assignment link, copies/pastes their critical response then fails to click the submit button. They then move into another part of Blackboard and the assignment is never submitted. Simple human error, but it will cost you a grade.

The only time that I will accept a late quiz or assignment is if the Blackboard System goes down. I have the ability to enter the system as both an administrator and as a student and I will know if there was a system failure. If there was a failure I am provided with a report stating so and then I can extend the deadline.

You will be penalized for poor writing skills. If you submit work that is riddled with spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors you will lose a significant number of points for that assignment. This could be the difference between a passing and failing grade so I strongly suggest that you utilize the spell check that is provided in all of your Blackboard links.

### Respect

All students are in this class to learn. Should a student disrupt that process, the instructor will take the appropriate steps to ensure that all students interact in a safe space that is conducive to the learning process.

Remember that your instructor is also a human being. She has many other responsibilities outside of this class, just as the student has several responsibilities outside of this one class. Read the syllabus, stick to class/university policies, utilize common etiquette and respect, and know that your instructor wants you to succeed in this course, but she is not responsible for that, you are.

### Security & Email Netiquette

Don't share your password.

Always logout when you are finished using the system.

When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:

Use a descriptive subject line.

Be brief.

Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them.

Avoid HTML in favor of plain text.

Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address.

Please note that aggressive and unprofessional behavior is not acceptable and will be dealt with immediately.

### **Instructor Bio**

Adriana is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at UTEP and Director of the Theatre Programs. Recent projects include *Los empeños de una casa*, *Heroes & Saints*, *Zoot Suit*, *And Then Came Tango*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *Luna*, *El Toro y La Nina*, *Lengua*, and *Cenicienta* which received the Directors' Choice Award at the Region VI Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2022. Adriana's adaptation, *A Christmas Carol en La Frontera* with co-author Jay Stratton, was accepted for publication by Eldridge Musicals and Plays in 2022. Adriana was appointed a Provost's Faculty Fellow for 2022-2024 and was named Educator of the Year for Higher Education by the Texas Educational Theatre Association in 2020. Adriana is honored to live in El Paso, a vibrant community that knows no borders. She received her B.A. in Theatre Arts with a Minor in Secondary Education from the University of Texas at El Paso, her M.A. in Performing Arts Administration from New York University, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction from New Mexico State University. Adriana has participated in theatre as an actress, director, producer, designer, playwright, dramaturg, and teacher at the elementary school, middle school, high school, and college level.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region: Lipan Apache, Mescalero Apache, Piro, Manso, Suma, Jumano, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, and Tortugas Pueblo. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas: the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and the peoples of Chihuahua and northern Mexico from whom most/many of our students descend, such as the Rarámuri, Tepehuan, Wixarrika



and Nahuatlaca peoples. Finally, we recognize all of the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in Paso del Norte, on Turtle Island. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and cultures and we seek greater awareness of the myriad ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.

#### **TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT TABLE**

	<b>Points</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Week One 1/16-1/19</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 1/16</b>		
<b>Introduction to the course</b>		
<b>Blackboard Work</b>		
<b>Navigate the site</b>		
<b>Post an introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1/19</b>
<b>Week Two: 1/22-1/26</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 1/23</b>		
<b>Creative Exercises</b>		
<b>Blackboard Work</b>		
<b>Submit recording of creative exercise</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1/26</b>
<b>Week Three: 1/29-2/2</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 1/30</b>		
<b>Present Creative Exercises</b>	<b>10 (for those that present)</b>	
<b>Blackboard Work</b>		
<b>Reflection on Creative Exercises</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2/1</b>
<b>Week Four: 2/5-2/9</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 2/6</b>		
<b>Present Creative Exercises</b>		
<b>Blackboard Work</b>		
<b>Reflection on Creative Exercises</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2/8</b>
<b>Week Five: 2/13-2/16</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 2/13</b>		
<b>Bring in your favorite tale</b>		
<b>Blackboard Work</b>		
<b>Tale Perspective</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2/13 (at noon)</b>

Begin rewriting your tale

Week Six: 2/19-2/23

NO IN-PERSON MEETING

In honor of your time attending *Los empeños*

Blackboard Work:

Watch *Cenicienta*

Continue working on your tale

Week Seven: 2/26-3/1

In-person meeting on 2/27

Introduction to puppets

Bring a flashlight/source of light

Blackboard Work:

Design puppets for your tale 1

3/1 (at noon)

Continue working on your tale

Week Eight: 3/4-3/8

In-person meeting

Puppet Building

Bring Newspapers and Tape

Blackboard Work:

Submit photos of your final puppets3

3/10

Submit your tale 3

3/10

Week Nine: 3/11-3/15

SPRING BREAK-NO CLASSES

Week Ten: 3/18-3/22

In-person meeting on 3/19

Tales and Puppetry Presentation 15

3/19 (upload by  
noon)

Blackboard Work:

Reflection 3

3/21

Week Eleven: 3/25-3/29

In-person meeting on 3/26

Tales and Puppetry Presentation

Blackboard Work:

Reflection 3

3/28

Week Twelve: 4/1-4/5

In-person meeting on 4/2

Bring in your favorite children's book/ play Prepare to discuss the elements Creating the aesthetic		
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Develop your aesthetic	2	4/4
<b>Week Thirteen: 4/8-4/12</b>		
<b>NO CLASS</b>		
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Continue to work on your adaptation Submit proposal	2	4/12
<b>Week Fourteen: 4/15-4/19</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 4/16</b>		
Workshop and reading of work		
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Submit draft	2	4/18
<b>Week Fifteen: 4/22-4/26</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 4/23</b>		
Workshop your entire piece		
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Submit your final draft	3	4/26
<b>Week Sixteen: 4/29-5/3</b>		
<b>In-person meeting on 4/30</b>		
First round of final presentations	20	Upload due at 12p.m. on 4/30
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Reflections	3	5/2
<b>Week Seventeen: 5/6-5/10</b>		
<b>In-person meeting: 5/9: 1:00p.m.-3:45p.m.</b>		
Second round of final presentations		
<b>Blackboard Work:</b>		
Reflection	3	5/10
<b>Performance Attendance</b>	15	

**TOTAL**

**101**