

Syllabus

Creative Drama

Spring 2026

THEA 3350

Tuesday 1:30p.m.-2:50p.m.

Fox Fine Arts 180D

Course Instructor & Contact Information

Adriana Domínguez, Ph.D. (she|ella)

Mailbox: Department of Theatre & Dance, Fox Fine Arts 371D (3rd floor, Fox Fine Arts)

E-mail: adrianad@utep.edu

Office: Prospect Hall 126

Office Number: 915-747-5231 Text number: 575-265-0687

Office Hours: Wednesday: 10:30a.m.-1p.m.

If these do not work for you, please connect with me and we will find an alternate time.

Please do make an appointment so I can make sure that the time is set aside for you.

I will typically respond to e-mails within 36 hours Monday-Thursday and 48 hours Friday-Sunday unless otherwise noted; please make sure to utilize proper etiquette. You can TEXT me any immediate questions about the course Monday-Friday 8a.m.-3p.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.

Important University Dates

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/academic%20calendars/academic-calendar.html>

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).

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, puppet 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:	1/20
Census Date:	2/4
Spring Break:	3/16-3/20 (I will be unavailable)
Last Day for W:	4/2
Last Day of Classes:	5/7
Final Exam:	5/14
Final grades officially available to students:	5/21

Required Text/Materials:

No need to purchase a textbook

Active UTEP Blackboard Shell for this class

Project materials (minimally: flashlight, newspaper, tape)

Technology to record voice and videos

A UTEP e-mail account; if you don't have one

Go to <http://getmail.utep.edu>

You may also call the HELP desk at (915) 747-4357 (on campus) or (915) 747-5257 (off-campus)

Reliable internet access and word processing software (more information below)
Adobe Reader – Here is the link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Required Software

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, they already have the necessary software. Adobe Acrobat Reader: You can get the program by going to www.adobe.com and then clicking on the icon on the left side of the screen which says “Get Adobe Reader. Follow instructions to install the reader.

Microsoft Office: I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. It is available at the UTEP bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. This will allow you to save written work as a PDF.

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, please print it from Blackboard.

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; be aware that class experiences cannot be duplicated. Also note that in the schedule, there are class sessions dedicated to honoring your time for show attendance and class work. Please do not e-mail me asking what you missed in class; it is in the syllabus. Therefore, there are no excuses for not completing work on time. Further, if you are late to class on presentation dates, please WAIT to enter the class.

Deadline Policy

Late submissions will not be graded; as in the professional workspace, a missed deadline has consequences. Please ensure that you carefully read all instructions; reading the instructions is your responsibility and you should not assume due dates or times. If you have a question, ask (after you have looked over the syllabus).

Work can always be submitted before the deadline time/date. 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

Do not ask to be an exception to a course 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). All assignments are due at 11:59p.m. (MST) unless otherwise noted. example: dominguez_finalpresentation. For video and audio links, make sure your links are accessible; I will not spend time tracking students down to resubmit if a file does not open; this means you will not receive credit.

Deadlines are listed for each submission and are in the course calendar; please note that I do not accept late work, you need to keep track of the assignment schedule. If you are having an issue with an assignment, make sure that you connect with me with plenty of time.

I have the ability to track your participation in Blackboard and I am able to see what date and time you accessed all links. Do not wait until the last minute to do your work. Technology has a way of tripping you up when you are racing against the clock.

You will receive full credit for your posts that are quality and consist of critical analysis and contribute to the discussion and that meet deadlines. You will need to use the course readings and/or other verified sources to support your arguments. I do not want a summary (recap of the material) of the readings. I have read the material; I know what it is about.

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

90+ points = A

89 – 77 points = B

76 – 65 points = C

64 – 54 points = D

54 – 0 points = F

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

Extra credit opportunities may arise unannounced so be prepared each class session.

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 large point spread. 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 44 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. Note that failure to upload progress or draft work prohibits students from submitting the final version of the work.

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. 4 minutes.

Puppet Tale *15 points*

Students will adapt an already-written tale and share their adaptation through puppetry in a live presentation in class. 5 minutes.

Final Project *20 points*

Students will change a play or 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). 7 minutes.

Performance Attendance *15 points*

Students can decide which THREE productions they would like to attend.

Slow Emergences

Orlando

Rent

Gray

La Gorda

Theatre Education Capstones (must stay the full time)

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 some of the productions and see the show for free; links will open on Blackboard one month prior to opening night. You must see one before Spring Break, the second before April 30, and the third by May 8.

Subject Matter

The performing arts have the power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable viewing. If you have concerns about

reading or discussing specific subjects, please contact me soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. Requests for substitutions and student suggested solutions must be made no later than 10 days prior to opening night. Please note that you must advocate for yourself and sometimes that means doing research ahead of time.

I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter. You can do research about each piece prior to the reading so that you can make the informed decision. I do not know your background and/or experiences. I do not know what impacts which people in which way. We must all advocate for ourselves and also respect the impact that such work can have on others.

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, 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, 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 (SSHD): 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

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 Responsibilities

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 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.

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

Dr. Adriana Domínguez is a community-engaged artist-scholar-educator with the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance. She focuses on the purpose of community and cultural engagement in the performing arts with a concentration on marginalized voices. Dr. Domínguez is the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants, 14 institutional funding opportunities, and two Texas Commission on the Arts grants. Dr. Domínguez has initiated over 30 community-engaged theatrical projects, which have reached close to 50,000 community members. She has been honored with over 25 local, regional, and national awards, including the 2024 Kennedy Center Gold Medallion, the 2020 Texas Educational Theatre Association's Educator of the Year for Higher Education, and a Congressional Commendation. Dr. Domínguez has authored 16 publications, presented at over 40 conferences, and takes great pride in promoting access and excellence at UTEP by consciously centering her work on underrepresented groups and community-engaged practice in the performing arts. Recent projects include: *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *And Then Came Tango*, *Los empeños de una casa*, *Heroes and Saints*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *A Christmas Carol*, *en la Frontera*, and *Cenicienta*. 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, and teacher at the elementary school, middle school, high school, and college level for over 30 years and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

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 Schedule

Week One 1/20-1/23

In-person meeting on 1/20

Introduction to the course

Blackboard Work

Navigate the site

Syllabus Quiz 1 point Due 1/22 at 11:59p.m.

Week Two: 1/26-1/30

In-person meeting on 1/27

Creative Exercises

Blackboard Work

Submit recording of creative exercise 3 points Due 1/30 at 11:59p.m.

Week Three: 2/2-2/5

In-person meeting on 2/3

Present Creative Exercises 10 points for those that present

Blackboard Work

Reflection on Creative Exercises 3 points Due 2/5 at 11:59p.m.

Week Four: 2/9-2/13

In-person meeting on 2/10

Present Creative Exercises

Blackboard Work

Reflection on Creative Exercises 3 points Due 2/12 at 11:59p.m.

Week Five: 2/16-2/20

In-person meeting on 2/17

Present Creative Exercises

Bring in your favorite tale 1 point

Blackboard Work

Reflection on Creative Exercises 3points Due 2/19 at 11:59p.m.

Tale Perspective 3 points Due 2/20 at 11:59a.m.

Begin rewriting your tale

Week Six: 2/23-2/27

No in-person meeting

In honor of your time attending live productions

Blackboard Work:

Watch Found Item Puppetry

Continue working on your tale

Week Seven: 3/2-3/6

In-person meeting on 3/4

Introduction to puppets 1 point

Bring a flashlight/source of light

Bring your stick puppet

Bring your cut out cereal box

Blackboard Work:

Continue working on your tale

Week Eight: 3/9-3/13

In-person meeting 3/10

Puppet Building and Found Item Puppetry

Bring in your newspaper puppet
Bring in three items from home

Blackboard Work:

Submit photos of your draft puppets 3 points Due 3/13 at 11:59p.m.
Submit your tale 3 points Due 3/12 at 11:59p.m.

Week Nine: 3/16-3/20

SPRING BREAK-NO CLASSES: Adriana is not available

Week Ten: 3/23-3/27

In-person meeting on 3/24

Tales and Puppetry Presentation 15 points Due 3/23 11:59a.m.

Blackboard Work:

Reflection 2 points Due 3/25 at 11:59p.m.
Final book/play

Week Eleven: 3/30-4/3

In-person meeting on 3/31

Begin Tape Art of Final Project 2 points

Week Twelve: 4/6-4/10

Online Lecture—no in-person meeting

Blackboard Work:

Online Lecture will open at 1:30p.m. on 4/6

Week Thirteen: 4/13-4/17

Class office hours—not required but an offering

Blackboard Work:

Develop your aesthetic 2 points Due 4/14 at 11:59p.m.
Submit proposal 2 points Due 4/16 at 11:59p.m.

Week Fourteen: 4/20-4/24

In-person meeting on 4/21

Workshop and reading of work 3 points

Blackboard Work:

Submit draft: Optional Due 4/22 at 11:59a.m.

Week Fifteen: 4/27-5/1

In-person meeting on 4/28

Workshop your entire piece

Blackboard Work:

Submit your final project 5 points Due 4/30 at 11:59p.m.

Week Sixteen: 5/4-5/8

In-person meeting on 5/5

First round of final presentations 20 points Due 5/5 at 11:59a.m.

Blackboard Work:

Support your classmates 3 points

Week Seventeen: 5/11-5/15

In-person meeting: 5/14: 1:00p.m.-3:45p.m.

Second round of final presentations

Blackboard Work:

Support your classmates 3 points

Performance Attendance 15 points

Total 105 points; does not include extra credit