

**Fall 2022**  
**Selected Topics in Theatre**  
**(THEA 4340)**

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

This class is a hybrid course. This means that we will meet in person once a week and you will have work to complete online through Blackboard. Please make sure that you complete the assignments by the deadline listed.

**Course Instructor:** Adriana Dominguez  
 Mailbox: Department of Theatre and Dance, FOX FINE ARTS 371D

**Communication:**

E-mail: [adrianad@utep.edu](mailto:adrianad@utep.edu) (best method of communication)  
 Office: 126 Prospect Hall  
 Office Hours: Tuesday:10a.m.-11:30a.m.

Text number: 575-265-0687

Phone: 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.

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

\*I ask that you look over the syllabus and all the module instructions before asking a question.

**Content Description**

This course is designed to construct a foundation for the understanding of dramaturgical purpose and process in the theatre through the creation of a dramaturgical packet of the production *Heroes and Saints*.

**Learning Objectives**

- 1) Students will further understand dramaturgical purpose and practice.
- 2) Students will write and reflect about their personal learning progress.
- 3) Students will create a full dramaturgical packet for production team and audience members.

**Important University Dates**

Classes Begin: 8/22  
 Labor Day: 9/5  
 Census Date: 9/7  
 Last Day for W: 10/28  
 University Closed: 11/24-11/25 (I will be unavailable)  
 Last Day of Classes: 12/2

**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. Powerpoint, video, audio, animation, and other applications are created outside of Blackboard and added into Blackboard courses for students to enhance teaching and learning efforts. 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. Your final grade is posted on **BLACKBOARD**.

Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus and readings will be on **Blackboard**.

### **How to Login to 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 with your UTEP Username and password. If you have trouble, email me as soon as possible. Blackboard Student Services provides 24/7 help desk and technical support to faculty and students in online courses.

Contacting Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support

Toll free 1-877-382-0491

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

### **Required Materials**

- Access to computer and internet.
- All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site located in the Learning Module for any particular week.
- A UTEP e-mail account; if you don't have one, GET ONE IMMEDIATELY.
- 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)

### **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. All the needed programs are free downloads and can be downloaded from the URLs I have provided here and on Blackboard, which are located in the Getting Started tab.

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can get the program by going to [www.adobe.com](http://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. All assignment documents must be submitted as Word .doc files. You can save the files as .doc files from most word processing programs. If I cannot open your documents, they WILL NOT be graded.

### **Grading policy and evaluation procedures:**

Credit hours: 3

- Grading scale: SEE BELOW
- Requirements and assignments: SEE BELOW

### **Additional Considerations**

This course requires online participation. Individual projects will present a number of creative problems. The originality with which you solve these problems and participate in this collective online learning experience will also be a factor in your grade. It is your responsibility to learn and improve each day.

### **COVID-19 Precautions**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors.

### **Class Attendance**

<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418>

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 respecting others

**Class Requirements:** In order to pass this course, you must:

1. complete all assignments;
2. maintain satisfactory attendance as described above;
3. participate actively in forums and assignments
4. upload all assignments to Blackboard on time.

### **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 are due at 8:00a.m. on the stated deadline.

**Major Projects          60 points**

<i>Heroes and Saints</i> Production Team Packet		40 points
Playwright and Production History	9/6	5 points
Historical Context	9/20	15 points
Imagery and the World	9/27	5 points
Character Connections	10/4	10 points
Why this play now?	10/11	5 points
<i>Heroes and Saints</i> Audience Packet		20 points
What does the audience need to know?	10/25	5 points
Final Packet	11/15	15 points

### Personal Reflections 30 points

Throughout the course you will be asked to respond with a reflection paper, double-spaced, about the topic assigned.

What is dramaturgy?	9/13 (2 pages)	5 points
Why dramaturgy?	11/8 (4 pages)	10 points
Personal journey	11/29 (4 pages)	15 points

### Play Viewing 10 points

You have the choice to see any play produced at UTEP. A two page response paper is required for credit.

### Upload Instructions

Upload written work as either a **DOC** or **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files.** Name them as follows: your last name\_play1(no spaces)\_date(mmddy)  
example: lopez\_play1\_041518

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 to support your arguments. In addition, you will need to review and comment on your peers' references. I do not want a summary (recap of the material) of the readings. I have read the material; I know what it is about.

**BEWARE:** Simply responding with "I agree" or "wow that's interesting" is not considered quality. The word "quality" carries a lot of weight!

### Grades

Your final grade will reflect the instructor's evaluation of

1. the consistency of your effort and dedication to the learning process;
2. your contributions to online discussion and critiques;
3. your ongoing presence in online discussion and critiques;
4. your active participation in the learning process;
5. the quality of and approach to your work on all assignments;

While Blackboard will give you a ballpark score, the final grade is given by the instructor and reflects some of the non-tangible items listed above.

**Letter grade scale**

100 – 90 points = A

89 – 80 points = B

79 – 70 points = C

69 – 60 points = D

59 – 0 points = F

**Subject Matter:** The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable reading. If you have concerns about reading or discussing specific subjects, please contact me 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**

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to The Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at Union Building East Room 106 by phone (915) 747-5148 or email [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of The Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

**The University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC's website ([uwc.utep.edu](http://uwc.utep.edu)). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC's website to learn more about the services they provide, or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

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 person's as ones' own. And, 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. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with the Assistant Dean of Students at the Student Union Building West, Room 102, or by calling (915) 747-5648.

**I do expect all work to be original; I do read all of your work.**

### **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, 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.

Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari. Stay away from Internet Explorer! For some reason Blackboard does not communicate well with Internet Explorer so avoid it. Additionally, it is very important that your Adobe Reader and Java software be up to date. All of your readings, lectures, and assignment sheets are (.pdf) files and require the latest version of Adobe Reader.

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.

You must check Blackboard daily for announcements and course messages. If you fail to check Blackboard and you miss an important announcement or email you are responsible for the consequences.

You are provided with a course calendar that clearly defines all due dates and deadlines. Online learning is independent learning and you must be responsible enough to submit all work on time. I will not accept late work.

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.

I do not drop students from class; that is your choice and responsibility.

Work will be graded in a timely manner as listed in the explanation of assignments.

As this is an online classroom, it is essential that online communication is effective and reflects appropriate behavior. Netiquette, guidelines for online behavior and interaction, will serve as the standard for this course. Netiquette guidelines provided by UTEP Online Teaching Academy.

### **Security:**

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

Don't share your password with anyone.

Change your password if you think someone else might know it.

Always logout when you are finished using the system.

### **Guidelines for communicating online:**

Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication.

Use clear and concise language.

Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.

Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you".

Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font.

Avoid using the caps lock feature as it can be interpreted as yelling.

Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ☹.

Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive.

Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).

Do not send confidential patient information via e-mail.

### **Email Netiquette:**

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.

Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person.

### **Message Board Netiquette:**

When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:

Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material.

Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending.

Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment.

Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.

Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.

Don't repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it.

Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own.

When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way.

Do not make personal or insulting remarks.

Be open-minded.

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. She has published with Chicana/Latina Studies, The Journal of Latina Critical Feminism, Camino Real, presented at NACCS, MALCS, MALAS, SCOLAS, NEH, and KCACTF. Recent projects include: *Real Women Have Curves*, *Luna*, *El Toro y La Nina*, *A Christmas Carol, en la Frontera*, *Cenicienta*, *And Then Came Tango*, and *Zoot Suit*. 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.