

# THEA 1313

## Syllabus

# Introduction To Theatre

## Fall 2017 Hybrid Class

**Instructor:** Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui  
**Hours:** MWF 9-10:15am or **BY APPOINTMENT**

**Office Location:** Fox Fine Arts D179  
**Office Phone:** 747-8026

### Communication:

- Phone: **915-747-8026**. You can call me M/W/F between 9am and 2pm and I will return calls during these hours only.
- Email through Blackboard - I respond to all emails M/W/F between 9am and 2pm. Do not email at utep.edu because it will get lost in the shuffle and if I do see it, I will not respond. So please log into our blackboard shell and use the "email professor" link on the left.
- Office Visits – I have set hours from 9-10:15am M/W and F. You can drop by during that time or to secure a set meeting, set a time up. I can meet by appointment only outside the office hour times. But please schedule them. I know many will like to speak after class, as is the norm, but make an appointment in advance.

### Required Text/Materials:

1. *Introduction to Theatre* by Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui – available at the bookstore in hardcopy or E-copy. Links for online purchase of the e-copy through publisher available on Blackboard.
2. Active UTEP Blackboard Shell for this class
3. Access to UTEP Library Database from home to view the database Digital Theatre Plus (DTP)
4. Adobe Reader - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
5. Microsoft Word – you can get it for Free from UTEP
6. Encouraged but not required – Join the class Facebook Group [UTEP: THEA 1313: Cubit-Tsutsui](#)

### Course Objectives:

- Students will learn and understand the basic knowledge of theatre.
- Students will develop the understanding of the aesthetic of performing arts and theatre as an art form and its role in society.
- Students will learn about theatre etiquette and appreciation of performing arts.
- Students will learn to communicate a critical view of social and cultural influences of productions that they view online.

### Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is to allow students to experience personal responsibility in the online university setting. It will be the student's responsibility to actively participate in their job as a college student by actively participating in the online class several times over the course of the week, checking blackboard daily, being prepared for and completing all assignments and test. My job is to provide a positive environment that encourages the desire to learn, guide the students through the course and make sure that the students feel comfortable coming to me via online tools or in person and asking any questions or to talk about the class.

### Grading:

I grade using a point system. Assignments will range in value. There is no weight to work. It is a simple point received/potential points earned system. You must make at least a C (560 points) to receive credit for the class.

**Grading Scale: 720-800 = A; 640-719 = B, 560-639 = C, 480-559 = D, 0-479 = F.**

## **Late Work**

**I do not accept late work!** No Excuses Allowed! I teach 150 Intro to Theatre students and do not have time to catch up on assignments turned in late. However, you are more than welcome to do work early and get ahead on assignments.

## **Get out of Jail Free Card**

I allow every student one (1) "Get out of Jail Free Card" – This is your opportunity to save yourself in the event you have a computer crash. **You can only use it on exams.** You simply email me the instant it happens explaining the situation, your email should be written in proper format, proper subject and be written in a nice and polite tone because you are asking a favor from me. Once submitted and I process the request you cannot use it again, even if you miss the window I have opened for you (usually 24 hours-36 hours from processing). If your computer crashes at 11:55pm on due date, I expect to see email by 8am the next day. You cannot request after that time has passed. This is not for those who just forget to do the exam.

## **Assignments:**

You are responsible for turning all work in on time. Instructions/Rubrics are available on Blackboard with the actual assignment. If you have any questions before you begin, please contact me.

You can turn work early and get ahead on assignments, they may not be graded until the after the due dates.

**Due Dates for assignments/exams are at 11:59pm the night before our class meeting.**

**Monday Section – all work is due Sunday at 11:59pm**

**Wednesday Section – all work is due Tuesday at 11:59pm**

**Friday Section –all work is due Thursday at 11:59pm**

**Discussion Boards are the exception – please see the Blackboard Shell for a breakdown of the due dates with a discussion board – there are parts, each with different due dates within the week.**

## **Attendance**

We meet once a week for a total of 13 classes. There is no reason for you to miss class. I will take attendance. After 2 absences your grade will be reduced one letter grade for each absence above the two. The only excused absence is university sanctioned events in which you need to provide a letter from a university head, like the dean or head of athletics to get the absence excused. Military students, if you miss class due to military commitment, you must provide letters from your CO to allow it to be excused or if it is a VA issue, also a letter must be provided. Do not schedule doctor appointments during my class, I don't do it, so you can't. Save your two absences that I allow for emergencies, like sick kids, death in the family or your sisters wedding in Las Vegas.

## **Extra Credit**

The only extra credit I allow is for students to see extra productions and turn in ticket stub and program. You can see all the department shows in addition to the one required show. You can also see shows at EPCC, NMSU and professional and community theatres in El Paso and Las Cruces. No high school productions allowed. All extra credit programs and tickets will be due no later Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am in my office or mailbox. You can see up to 8 shows at 10 points each. That is 80 points total which is the difference in a whole letter grade. Trust me – bank these, start seeing the shows at the beginning of the semester, do not wait until the semester is almost over because there may not be any shows to see.

## **Grade Rounding**

At the end of the semester many of you might be a few points shy of a better grade. I do not round up unless you meet all the following criteria.

1. You are 5 points away from a better grade – do not email me if you are 6 points away.
2. You completed every assignment
3. You have PERFECT attendance
4. You did all 8 extra credit possibilities

So don't ask me to do so unless you have met all 4 requirements.

## **Technical Support**

If you do not know how to use Blackboard – go to Tech Support Room 300 at Library immediately. Do not wait until you do not understand until you are having problems. You can contact Help Desk via email, [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu), by phone 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4p.

## **Copyright Statement**

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Copying of textbooks is not “fair use” under the Copyright Act. Your cooperation is expected.

## **Student Conduct/Scholastic Dishonesty/Final Exams and Plagiarism**

Refer to the [Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs](#).

Due to the nature of an online class, proper online etiquette is critical.

## **Students with Disabilities Policy:**

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact The Cass Office at 747-5148 or at [cass@utp.edu](mailto:cass@utp.edu) or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

## **Syllabus Change Policy:**

Except for changes that substantially affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

## **Monday Schedule** **Subject to Change**

### **Semester long assignment – Newspaper Review**

You must see a department production of your choosing, see handout with titles, dates, ticket information etc. You will be writing a Newspaper style review on it, instruction on Blackboard. You can turn it in at any time during the semester but the last date to turn it in will be Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. I suggest you turn it in as soon as it is written. If you plan on seeing the first show of the Season, *The Importance of Being Earnest* – take excellent notes and develop it as I teach.

**Week #1 - August 28<sup>th</sup>** – Estimate time needed for outside work is about **3 hours** if you have no problems understanding the technology, more time will be needed if you are having difficulty.

Class	Introductions and prep for the semester
Outside work	The work below is critical for your success in this class, <b>failure to complete it will result in you being dropped from the class by census day.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explore and Learn Blackboard – if you need help visit the Atlas Lab or Tech Support.</li><li>2. Access Digital Theatre Plus from home or on campus –to make sure you can watch the videos, if you are having difficulty get help from Tech Support.</li><li>3. Makes sure you have all the supplies or access to all the supplies needed for class.</li><li>4. Read through Syllabus</li><li>5. Take the Syllabus Quiz – <b>Failure to complete by Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm will result in you being dropped from the class.</b></li><li>6. Read the guide to doing discussion boards – you can find it in the table of contents under guides and instructions.</li><li>7. Do your Introduction Discussion – <b>Failure to complete by Thursday, September 7<sup>h</sup> at 11:59pm</b> will result in you being dropped from class</li></ol>

**Week #2 – September 4<sup>th</sup>** – No class – Labor Day

**Week #3 – September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **5 hours**

Class	The Role of Theatre
Outside work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the articles/weblinks in the folder “Articles on Theatre’s Social Impact”</li><li>2. Review the guidelines and timeline for working on your discussion board</li><li>3. Work on and complete the discussion board “Theatre and Society”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial post is due no later than Wed the 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. If late you will fail assignment</li><li>• Respond to 2 peers post by Friday at 11:59pm, if late or both are no completed you will fail assignment.</li><li>• For extra credit, follow up comments must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm</li></ul></li></ol>

**Week #4 – September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **3 hours**

- Class           Theatregoing  
Outside work   1. Review pages 1-12 in textbook  
                  2. Complete the journal assignment on Finding a Production to See.

**Week #5 – September 25<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **5 hours**

- Class           Experiencing Theatre Past and Present  
Outside work   1. Review Chapter “Experiencing Theatre Past and Present”  
                  2. Review Supplement Lecture Note provided in Learning Module  
                  3. Watch *A Doll’s House* on Digital Theatre Plus  
                  4. Complete the assignment on reviewing *A Doll’s House*  
                  5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of your final grade in the class.

**Week #6 – October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **2.5 hours**

- Class           The Audience: Its Role and Expectations  
Outside work   1. Review Chapter “The Audience: Its Role and Imagination”  
                  2. Do the Food For Thought Assignment – a single short answer question  
                  3. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of your final grade in the class.

**Week #7 – October 9<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **6 hours**

- Class           Background and Expectations of the Audience  
Outside work   1. Review Chapter “Background and Expectations of the Audience”  
                  2. Watch *Private Lives* on Digital Theatre Plus  
                  3. Learn about theatre blogging and review writing  
                  4. Do the Blog Review assignment for *Private Lives*  
                  5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of your final grade in the class.

Other           **Exam 1 will open at Noon on the 9<sup>th</sup> you will have until the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59pm to complete it.**

**Week #8 – October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **5 hours**

- Class           Creating the World of the Play: The Playwright  
Outside work   1. Review Chapter “Creating the World of the Play: The Playwright”  
                  2. Watch video *Working in Theatre: The Playwright*  
                  3. Read articles in the folder “Creative License”  
                  4. Do the Discussion Board “Creative License” – Be mindful of deadlines they are the same as the Role in Society Discussion Board done on week #2  
                  5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of your final grade in the class.

Other           **Exam 1 has been open for 1 week. You have until the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59pm to complete it.**

**Week #9 – October 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **7 hours**

- Class            The Director and Producer
- Outside work   1. Review Chapter “The Director and Producer”  
2. Watch video on Directing  
3. Watch either *Macbeth* or *Much Ado about Nothing* on Digital Theatre Plus – you choose  
4. Do the Directing Analysis Assignment on Blackboard  
5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of you final grade in the class.

**Week #10 – October 30<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **5 hours**

- Class            The Actor
- Outside work   1. Review Chapter “The Actor”  
2. Read and or Watch extra links on acting techniques  
3. Watch video on the Actor  
4. Read articles on Casting and Acting Responsibilities  
5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of you final grade in the class.
- Other            **Exam 2 will open on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Noon and must be completed by Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**

**Week #11 – November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **3 hours**

- Class            Theatre Spaces
- Outside work   1. Review Chapter “Theatre Spaces: The Audiences Views the Stage”  
2. Look over vocab list provided  
3. Do the Food For Thought Assignment  
4. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of you final grade in the class.
- Other            **Exam 2 continue to be open and must be completed by Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**

**Week #12 – November 13<sup>th</sup>** – Estimated time needed for this week is about **7 hours**

- Class            Scenery
- Outside work   1. Review Chapter “Scenery”  
2. Review PowerPoint and Vocab list provided  
3. Watch the three set design Video links provided  
4. Watch *The Container* on Digital Theatre Place  
3. Do the Set Design/Space Analysis for *The Container*  
4. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will **NOT** be part of you final grade in the class.

**Week #13 – November 20<sup>th</sup>** – No Class – Have a great Thanksgiving Week and rest – you have all be working hard and deserve a break!!!

**Week #14 – November 27<sup>th</sup> – Estimated time needed for this week is about 7 hours**

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|--------------|--|
| Class        | Stage Costumes   |
| Outside work | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review Chapter “Stage Costumes”</li><li>2. Review PowerPoint provided</li><li>3. Watch the three costume design Video links provided</li><li>4. Do the costume design assignment for Snow Daughter Fire Son</li><li>5. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will <b>NOT</b> be part of you final grade in the class.</li></ol> |

**Week #15 – December 4<sup>th</sup> – Estimated time needed for this week is about 7 hours**

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|--------------|---|
| Class        | Lighting and Sound  |
| Outside work | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review Chapter “Lighting and Sound”</li><li>2. Review PowerPoint provided</li><li>3. Watch the four videos on Lighting and Sound</li><li>4. Do the Food for Thought Assignment</li><li>5. Do the Journal Assignment on Lighting</li><li>6. Do the Quizlet – the grade for it will <b>NOT</b> be part of you final grade in the class</li></ol> |

Other            **Exam 3 will open on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon. You must complete it by Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**

**Your Final Newspaper Review must be submitted by Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**