

THEA 1313

Syllabus

Introduction To Theatre

Spring 2019 Hybrid

Instructor: Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui
Hours: MW 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-F between 9am and 2pm and I will return calls during these hours only, or
- Office Hours: See above – I am around MWF 9am-2:30p, T/Th vary but usually 10:30-2:30p. Above are my set office hours, but you can always email me to make an appointment. I am **always** happy to meet and talk in person; I find this the most effective communication when dealing with problems. Emails are always the worse. I cannot meet MW 12-1:20 because I have another class.
- Email through Blackboard - I respond to all emails M-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.

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 and alternative options for book purchases.
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. Microsoft Word
5. Microsoft Power Point
6. Adobe Reader - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
7. A mini stapler with staples
8. Positive Attitude, Good Work Ethic and the desire to have fun, but think critically!

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.
- Students will learn to work in groups to create and present new ideas regarding theatre.

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is to allow students to experience personal responsibility in a 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 to ask any questions or to talk about the class.

Class Attendance

We will be having 15 classes, attendance is required. Every class as some graded assignment in class – I will allow for two absences. After the two, your grade will be affected.

Grading:

25% - Participation and Play Viewing

25% - Exams and Final Review

25% - Homework/Skeleton Notes/Student Lecture and Presentation

25% - Project

Participation

- For every class you will have to complete some type of “Exit Ticket”. This ticket tells me about your thoughts on the class and a grade is assigned on your participation level. You will be allowed 2 exemptions in case you miss class.
- Self and Peer evaluations for class discussions. There will be three and I will exempt 1. If you miss 2 class discussions it will impact your grade. Please keep an eye on the syllabus so you are in attendance.

Show Attendance

You must see a minimum of two Theatrical Productions produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the UTEP Dinner Theatre. A handout will be provided in class. You will be required to turn in your ticket stubs, programs on a set due date – see schedule.

One of your required plays must be *Oedipus El Rey* as you have to do that for your final class review assignment.

You are also **required** to sign an attendance sheet at the **end of the performance** you attend. If you do not sign this sheet at the end of the performance you will not get credit for attendance and receive a zero. The house manager will have the sign in sheet available at the end of each performance.

If the affordability of the tickets is an issue there are opportunities for you to usher and see a performance for free. Please come see me if you are interested in this, but this must be done early in the semester as these positions fill up quickly.

Homework/Notes/Lecture and Presentations

- As we learn new topics you will be watching online plays or reading plays and have to do a mini topic focused journal review.
- Some topics in class will be student led lectures; you will be given your topic in advance and be required to teach the class.
- You will be required to prepare for class by reading chapters and doing filling in a skeleton outline
- There will be class discussions, the prep for that will be called an admission ticket and you must complete it for a grade and be granted the ability to participate in the class discussion.

Project

All semester we will working on a group project where you will write a mini play, direct and perform it, design the sets, costumes, lighting and sound. We will work in class but you will be expected to do some work as a group outside of class.

Exams/Review

- You have 3 exams in the class, they are unit exams and not cumulative. All are online and you have a window to take them, but a set due date. They are timed and randomized. You are allowed to use your Skeleton Notes and Text Book.
- You will see *Oedipus El Rey* in April and using all the information you have learned this semester write a well-structured review of the projection. Instructions and a Rubric will be provided.

Extra Credit

There are four extra credit opportunities – WDA has two performances in February and of the Department's 4 productions you need to see Oedipus El Rey and one other show. So that leaves you 2 that can be seen as extra credit. For it to be considered you must sign in, turn in BOTH ticket stub and program, stapled. For every show I will then add 5 points or 5% to a grading category to boost your grade. I will look at each individual student to determine what works best for them.

Late Work

I do not accept late work! No Excuses Allowed! I don't have time to catch up on grading late assignment. 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 (via our blackboard shell – not UTEP.edu) 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 assignment it is only for technical difficulties.

Subject Matter

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual's rights to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

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, 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 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.