

THEA 1313

Introduction To Theatre

Syllabus

Fall 2014 Monday Hybrid

Instructor: Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui

Email: Messaging via Blackboard Shell Only

Office Phone: 747-8026

Office: Fox Fine Arts D178

Hours: MWF 10-11am or **BY APPOINTMENT**

Class: 11:30am-12:50pm

Communication:

- EMAIL:** Feel free to email me at anytime using the Blackboard Messaging System. I will respond to all messages within 48 hours, except between 5pm Friday – 9am Monday.
- PHONE:** If I do not answer please leave a message. I will return your call between 10-11am MWF.
- OFFICE:** I always prefer to have face-to-face meetings when possible. If you want to discuss your work, assignments, or anything for that matter, try to make an appointment to see me in the office.

Required Text/Materials:

1. *Introduction to Theatre* by Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui – available at the bookstore in hardcopy. Links for online purchase of the e-copy through publisher available on Blackboard
2. Theatre Tickets to selected plays at UTEP
3. Active UTEP Blackboard Shell for this class
4. Microsoft PowerPoint
5. Adobe Reader - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Course Objectives:

- Students will learn and understand the basic knowledge of theatre through historical and modern theatre culture.
- Students will develop the understanding of the aesthetic of performing arts and theatre as an art form.
- Students will learn about theatre etiquette and appreciation of performing arts.
- Students will discuss and communicate critical view of historical, social, and cultural influence of productions that you will see.

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is to allow students to experience personal responsibility in the university setting. It will be the student's responsibility to actively participate in their job as a college student by attending class everyday, coming prepared, actively participating in class, and completing all assignments. 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 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. **Grading Scale: 720-800 = A; 640-719 = B, 560-639 = C, 480-559 = D, 0-479 = F.** You must make at least a C to receive credit for the class.

Please Note: Be sure to save ALL graded work that is returned to you and verify your grade periodically throughout the semester. Errors in your grade can be corrected if you can provide your graded work.

Show attendance:

It is mandatory for you to attend the following productions. Please purchase your tickets early. If you wait to buy tickets until the last minute, it is possible that tickets will be sold out. **Remember to save your tickets and programs. You will need to turn them into me to get credit for attending the production.**

1. *Taming of the Shrew* – Wise Family Theatre – October 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 @ 8pm
October 19 & 26 @ 2:30pm
2. *Bring it Home Now* (Dance) – Studio Theatre – Nov 19, 20, 21, 22 @ 8pm and Nov 23 @ 2:30pm
-OR-
Footloose: The Musical – UTEP Dinner Theatre – October 17-Nov 2 (See schedule provided)

You can purchase Theatre Department tickets (*Taming* and *Bring it Home* only) at the Department of Theatre and Dance Box Office on the 2nd floor of the Fox Fine Arts Bldg in the Lobby of the Wise Theatre. 747-5188. Hours will be posted on Blackboard under announcements. You can also buy all tickets at the Union East Building Ticket Center, 1st Floor at Hard Copy Station, 747-8123, or at any Ticket Master Box Office.

Assignments – *You are responsible for turning all work in on time, even if you are absent.*

- Exams: (300 points) You will have three online multiple choice Exams. They will be available for one week and when you begin you will have a set time limit to take the test. Make sure you are on a reliable network (hard wired is more reliable than wireless.) You will find your exams under **Content/Exams** choose the exam that is open and available. The calendar on your syllabus has the schedule for due dates. **Technical difficulties is not an excuse for not completing the exam.** Please use **Google Chrome** as your preferred software for and during all testing. If Blackboard is down on the due date of the exam, I will extend it for an additional 24 hours only. I will know if Blackboard is down university wide as I have access to this information and can have it confirmed.
- Articles and Final Essay Exam (100 points) You will have an essay final that will be online, your time window will be on the syllabus and once you begin you will have 2 hours to complete. The essay will revolve around a series of articles that are available for you to read throughout the semester at your own pace. I suggest you read the articles in your time, take notes, highlight information and be prepared prior to starting the exam or you will find you will not have enough time to complete the writing.
- UTEP Productions: (100 points) You will be required to see the two production above. You will have to turn in the program and ticket stub to me by the due date on the syllabus. They must be stapled (**I do not provide a stapler for you to use in class**) and have your name on it. I will not accept late submitted programs. You can turn them in early.
- Online Productions and Questions (200 points) – You will be watching video plays online through the Library Database, *Digital Theatre Plus*. I have found that for you to view it best, you should use **Internet Explorer**. After you watch it, you will be required to answer questions on Blackboard about the production. These are **NOT MOVIES**, they are taped LIVE PRODUCTIONS. I will post instructions on how to get to the database from home, you can also contact the library for more instructions. I suggest you make sure you know how to get to the database well in advance of your first assignment. You will find the link under **Content/Online Productions and Questions**. You can find the due dates on the calendar in the syllabus. Blackboard will shut the questions down at 11:59 pm on the due date and you WILL NOT have access to the assignment and will receive a zero. I cannot open the assignment back up again. Do not wait until the last minute to work on this assignment.
- Class Presentation (100 points) You will all be assigned a city in the United States and will give a 3 minute presentation in class on the “Arts in an American City.” You will be required to create a PowerPoint Presentation with images to support your speech. You can find more information on this presentation under (**Content/Arts in and American City Presentation**). The schedule for your presentation can be found on the syllabus calendar and you must be present for both days and ready when I call on you.

Late Work

I do not accept late work! No Excuses Allowed! Blackboard shuts down and I cannot reopen assignments for one student.

Extra Credit

Extra credit for you means extra work for me and I don't have that kind of time. Extra credit also means extra hard working. Students who have shown they are serious about class through good attendance and turning in all work will be granted extra credit. Assignment, points will be determined by me. You must make an appointment to see me and we will have a discussion about it. There will be no extra credit granted after November 17th and all extra credit will be due November 24th at 9am. If you have been a student who has missed class and missed work, you will NOT be granted extra credit, so do not bother to ask me.

Attendance

You are allowed up to two (2) absences. I will close and lock doors at top of lecture, do not knock and interrupt lecture, I will not answer. Once class begins, do not leave early unless it has been discussed with me prior to the start of class. I will pass around an attendance sheet, it is your responsibility to sign in.

Technology Support

Technology difficulty is not an excuse for missed work. Do you need help with Blackboard? Do you need assistance with your writing? Is your laptop giving you difficulty? Need PowerPoint? It is your job as a student to get the necessary help to do well in the class. The University has many resources for you that are free and they are more than happy to assist you to be a better student. Below are a list of services you can go to for the necessary assistance and trainings. Please note that the technology support on the main floor of the library by the computer area is not equipped to help you with major problems, uploads, etc. Please see the below locations for the various support services you may need.

Atlas Lab: a student-focused component of support provided by the Educational Technology Assistance Personnel (ETAP). They offer technology training, assistance, and friendly service to help with academic technology needs.

Website - http://issweb.utep.edu/home/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=99&Itemid=346,

Technology Support Services: The first point of contact for technology services for the university community, is to be academic focused, customer centric and proactive in leveraging innovative technology for improved teaching, learning and productivity. Located in Library room 300, Hours of operation are: Monday - Friday: 7am - 8pm, Saturday: 9am - 1pm and Sunday: 12pm - 4pm.

<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=admin.utep.edu/ts>.

Writing Center: provides individualized online and face-to-face writing assistance to all UTEP students.

Located in Library room 227. Email - uwc@utep.edu, phone - (915) 747-5112

Website Link - <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/writingcenter>

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to \$1000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

Student Conduct/Scholastic Dishonesty/Final Exams and Plagiarism

Refer to the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs

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 with advance notice.

Date	Topic	Due
Week 1 August 25	Class Introduction	Do practice exam, access Digital Theatre Plus, answer test questions on video by Sept 3 Buy your tickets for the Productions!!!
Week 2 September 8	Theatre Past and Present	Video #1 – <i>As You Like It</i> – Due Wed Sept 10
Week 3 September 22	The Role of the Audience	Video #2 – <i>A Doll's House</i> – Due Wed Sept 17
Week 4 September 29	Background and Expectations	Video #3 – <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i> – Due Wed Oct 1
Week 5 October 6	The Critic and The Playwright	Exam #1 will open Oct 8 at 9am and close Oct 14 at 11:59pm (Covers Theatre Past and Present – The Critic)
Week 6 October 13	The Actor	Video #4 – <i>The Container</i> – Due Wed Oct 15
Week 7 October 20	The Director	Exam #2 will open Oct 22 at 9am and close 28 at 11:59pm (Covers The Playwright – The Director)
Week 8 October 27	Discuss Taming of the Shrew Scenic Design	Learn about Stage Spaces on your own – will need For Exam #3 <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> Ticket stubs and Programs due in class, Oct 27, stapled with name on it.
Week 9 November 3	Finish Scenic Design Start Costume Design	<i>Footloose</i> ticket stubs and programs due in class on Nov 3, stapled with name on it.
Week 10 November 10	Finish Costume Design Lighting Design	Exam #3 will open Nov 12 at 9am and close Nov 18 at 11:59pm
Week 11 November 17	Presentations “Arts in America”	Video #5 – <i>Into the Woods</i> – Due Wed Nov 19
Week 12 November 24	Presentations “Arts in America”	Final Essay Exam opens Mon Nov 24 at 9am and close Sunday Nov 30 at 11:59pm
Week 13 December 1	Presentation Left overs Class Discussion of <i>Bring it Home</i>	<i>Bring it Home</i> Ticket Stubs and Programs Due in class Dec 1, stapled with name on it.