

**THEA 1313**  
**Introduction to Theatre**  
**Fall 2022**

**Instructor:** Marissa A. Díaz, MFA

**Cell Phone:** 915.276.3124

**Office:** Fox Fine Arts D172

**Class Time:** W 10:30am – 11:50am

**Office Hours:** By appointment only on: T & TH 8:30am-10am | Virtual meetings may also be scheduled

**Email:** mddiaz2@utep.edu

**Office Phone:** 747.7851

**Classroom:** Quinn Hall 203

**Credits:** 3

**Required Text:**

Introduction to Theatre

By Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui

- Available at General Collection Reserves at the UTEP Library
- Available for Electronic Reading at no cost on the Course Reserves (see Blackboard PowerPoint for directions on accessing).

**Technology Requirements:**

- Access to UTEP Library Database from home
- Word/Google Docs will be needed for the class. If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal link below:  
[https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE\\_PAGES/soft\\_microsoftoffice365.html](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_microsoftoffice365.html)
- Adobe Reader – <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

**Course Description:**

Analysis of the principles and techniques involved in representing human experience in a play; the relationship of acting, directing, staging, lighting, costuming, and other Theatre Arts to one another and to the written word. The course is designed to serve not only as an introduction to drama for departmental majors, but as a general survey for non-majors.

**Course Objectives:**

- Students will understand the basic knowledge of theatre.
- Students will develop the understanding of the aesthetic of the performing arts and theatre as an art form and its role in society.
- Students will be able to evaluate and present a critical view of social and cultural influences of live and online productions.

**Course Policies:**

- It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill all the course requirements to the best of their abilities. If a student is unclear about anything on the syllabus, they should seek clarification from the instructor.
- If you do not feel well, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19, **PLEASE STAY HOME.**
- Students are expected to maintain a classroom environment, which is conducive to learning. To assure all students have an opportunity to benefit from time spent in class, students are **prohibited from using cell phones** in class unless otherwise approved by the instructor.
- No earphones, ear buds/air pods are allowed on while in the classroom.
- **Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.** If a deadline is missed, the student will receive a zero as a grade for that project or assignment.
- Students must behave in accordance with all rules put forth by the Handbook of Operating Procedures of the University of Texas at El Paso.

## Course Communication:

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond in a timely manner to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receiving. Please be sure to e-mail me from your UTEP student account and include the course number or title in the subject line, along with your first and last name. If you do not include the course number/title, I will not respond.
- **Announcements:** Please check Blackboard announcements frequently for updates, deadline changes, or other important messages.
- **Cell Phone:** You may text me; however, you must include your name and which class you are in. You may contact me via cell at any time during the week, but not on weekends unless it is an emergency.
- **Video Calls/Meetings:** Video calls or meetings may be set up as needed throughout the semester.

## Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others' ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted online in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

## Sharing of Material on Social Media

All the materials—written, audio and visual—shared within this course remain within this course. You can share on your social media your own materials if the only person that appears or the only author is you. If you want to share content that includes or is co-authored with other classmates, you need to write them AND the instructor to discuss the authorization.

## Helpful Resources:

### **Technical Support**

If you do not know how to use Blackboard or have technical issues with Library access – visit the Technology Support Center located in the Library at Room 300. You can contact the 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 12-4pm.

### **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.

### **UTEP Writing Center**

To get help with writing please check out the writing center – their procedure has changed due to the virus and you must plan ahead. <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>

### **Student Health Center**

UTEP Student Health Center is here to meet the health care needs of all students so they can focus on their studies. As a student you have paid a medical service fee that allows you to be seen at the clinic as often as needed. Office visits are low cost as well as medications, supplies and any needed lab tests (747-5624).

### **University Counseling Center**

The UTEP University Counseling Center located at 202 Union West can assist you to decide on a career or work through personal concerns. They provide confidential counseling services, assist with stress management, and offer an after-hours crisis support line (747-5302).

## Copyright Statement:

<https://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html>

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

## Scholastic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the [Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs](#). 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 one's 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 <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html>

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

## Subject Matter:

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

## Disclaimer:

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, is subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor to enhance learning opportunities. All changes will be clearly communicated.

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## Attendance Policy:

Since this is a hybrid course, attendance in class is required as we will only meet 16 times during the semester. Attendance does factor into the grading breakdown; therefore, missing class in person will affect your grade. **If you arrive 15 minutes after class has started, you will be considered absent and will not receive any points for that day.**

If you are sick or test positive for COVID-19, please send me an email with a positive COVID-19 test result or a doctor's note and I will be in touch/make accommodations if possible.

Absences that will be excused are those for students representing the university in officially recognized university activities. The students must provide the instructor with written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member prior to the event. In addition, a student may also be excused for observance of a religious holy day and for the time needed to travel for said holy day.

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## Show Requirements:

You will be required to see (2) UTEP Theatre & Dance Department or UTEP Dinner Theatre productions this semester. The productions are:

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show – Live on Stage!** The UTEP Dinner Theater

October 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2022

Special "Audience Participation" Performances

October 28, 30, 31, 2022

**Borderline** - The June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre

October 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 @ 7:30pm

October 23, 30 @ 2:30pm

\*Student Matinees: October 25,26 @ 10:00 A.M.

**Zoot Suit** - The Wise Family Theatre

November 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, December 2,& 3 @ 7:30pm

November 20, 27, & December 4 @ 2:30pm

\*Student Matinees: November 29,30 December 1 @ 10:00 A.M.

Written observations of these productions are part of your grade for this course. Papers must include observations/critiques on the direction, acting, scenery, lighting/sound, and costumes. How did these all work together? What stood out to you? Was there something you liked/disliked? Was there anything you didn't understand/wasn't sure worked out? How are these productions relevant to today's world?

**With your observation paper, you must also submit a ticket and program as proof that you attended that show!**

There are ushering opportunities for these shows which will allow you to see them at no cost. Please reach out to Josey Pickett at [jmpickett2@utep.edu](mailto:jmpickett2@utep.edu) if you are interested.

**All show papers are due no later than 5pm on December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## TICKET PRICES/INFO:

- **UTEP Theatre & Dance Dept. Shows: Borderline/Zoot Suit**  
Adults: \$18 UTEP Faculty/Staff, Seniors \$15 Military, Groups (10+), Alumni (with card), Non-UTEP Students: \$15 UTEP Students (with a valid ID), Children (ages 4-12): \$12  
\*Student matinees are for area K-12 schools only.
- **UTEP Dinner Theater: The Rocky Horror Show-Live on Stage!**  
**Friday & Saturday Dinner Performances - Reserved Tables** Adult \$53.50 UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+) \$51.50 UTEP Alumni Association Members\*\*\$51.50 Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$51.50 Non-UTEP Student \$51.50 Military\*\* \$51.50 UTEP Student\*\*\* \$43.50  
**Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Matinee Dinner Performances – Reserved Tables** Adult \$48.50 UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+)\*\* \$46.50 UTEP Alumni Association Members\*\*\$46.50 Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$46.50 Non-UTEP Student \$46.50 Military\*\* \$46.50 UTEP Student\*\*\* \$38.50  
**Sunday No Dinner Matinee Performances – Reserved Tables** Adult \$32.50 UTEP Faculty/Staff/Group (20+)\*\* \$30.50 UTEP Alumni Association Members\*\* \$30.50 Children (4-12 yrs. old) \$30.50 Non-UTEP Student \$30.50 Military\*\* \$30.50 UTEP Student\*\*\* \$22.50 \*Children 3 years and under are not allowed in the theatre. \*\*Up to 4 Tickets per valid ID. \*\*\*One ticket per valid UTEP ID.

## WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS:

- The UTEP Ticket Center – Main Location  
2901 N. Mesa El Paso, Texas 79902  
Monday-Friday: 8 A.M.-6 P.M.  
Saturday: 8 A.M.-4.PM.  
Closed on Sundays  
(915) 747-5234
- UTEP Ticket Center – Union East Location  
Union Building East, Room 111 (1st Floor) Hours of Operation  
Open only Fall & Spring Semesters Monday - Friday: 9am - 2pm (Hours subject to change)

## **Chapter Reflections:**

You will be assigned reading materials throughout the semester. All reading materials are found digitally at no cost through the Course Reserves. See PowerPoint on Blackboard for directions in accessing the readings. Each reflection must include brief synopsis of the content and at least 3 new things that you learned. This reflection must be a minimum of 250-words. Each chapter reflection will be due the Monday before we meet by 11:59pm on Blackboard.

## **Play Reactions:**

You will be required to watch online versions of plays or read full length plays every week. You will submit a minimum 250-word response to each of these plays via Blackboard. What parallels can you make from the readings to what is in the play? How is the play socially relevant? What are the major themes/take aways of the play? What did you like/dislike about it? This must be a well written and well thought out response. Each reaction to a play is due on the designated day in the schedule by 10:20am time.

## **Extra Credit Options:**

### **1. Lighting/Sound Shop Hours:**

Students may come in and volunteer hours in the lighting and sound shops and earn extra credit points. Each hour worked is (2) points, for example: if you volunteer (10) hours, you will receive 20pts. The shop hours are **Monday through Friday from 12:30-5:00pm** at the Wise Family Theater or the June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theater. If you are interested in this option, you must complete the required safety training. Attached to the syllabus is a time sheet where you can fill out your name and hours. If you are putting in shop hours for extra credit, your time sheet must be stored in the binder at the lighting shop. Should your time sheet be lost or misplaced, you will need to start your hours over.

**\*\*\*Your last day to complete any hours for extra credit December 1st, the last day before dead day\*\*\***

### **2. Lighting Installation Observations**

Students are welcomed and encouraged to visit lighting installation/light art exhibits in the El Paso area or in other areas. Any public lighting set up where there is artistic intent can be considered an installation piece for this observation paper.

Students must submit photo proof of the exhibit along with a 1 page paper double spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font stating their experience in the exhibit. How did you feel? How long were you in there? Can you imagine standing in that room and only experience either lights or sound and how would that experience differ from what you felt at your visit? What did you think about the design of the space? Write about your observations.

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## Grading Breakdown:

Attendance	32 pts
Introduction Discussion Board	30 pts
Syllabus Quiz	20 pts
Chapter Reflections	100 pts (10pts each)
Play Reactions	80 pts (10pts each)
Borderline Paper	50 pts
Zoot Suit/Rocky Horror Paper	50 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>462 pts</b>

### **Extra Credit:**

Lighting Shop Hours	50 pts (2pts/hr)
Lighting Installation Observation Paper	25 pts

### **Final Letter Grade Breakdown:**

A	462-416
B	415-370
C	369-323
D	322-300
F	299-0

THEA 1313 Course Schedule  
Fall 2022

Date	Reading/Topic	Assignment Due
<b>Wednesday-08/24</b>	-	<b>Introduction Discussion Post Due 08/27</b>
<b>Monday-08/29</b>	-	
<b>Wednesday-08/31</b>	Course Introduction <b>Assign Syllabus Quiz and first chapter</b>	
<b>Monday-09/05</b>	Chapter-Experiencing Theatre: Past and Present	<b>Syllabus Quiz Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-09/07</b>	Chapter-Experiencing Theatre: Past and Present <b>Assign Play #1</b>	
<b>Monday-09/12</b>	Chapter-The Audience: Its Role and Imagination	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-09/14</b>	Chapter-The Audience: Its Role and Imagination <b>Assign Play #2</b>	<b>Play #1 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
<b>Monday-09/19</b>	Chapter-The Background and Expectations of the Audience	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-09/21</b>	Chapter-The Background and Expectations of the Audience <b>Assign Play #3</b>	<b>Play #2 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
<b>Monday-09/26</b>	Chapter: Theatre Spaces: The Audience Views the Stage	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-09/28</b>	Chapter: Theatre Spaces: The Audience Views the Stage <b>Assign Play #4</b>	<b>Play #3 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
<b>Monday-10/03</b>	Chapter-Acting	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-10/05</b>	Chapter-Acting <b>Assign Play #5</b>	<b>Play #4 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
<b>Monday-10/10</b>	Chapter-The Director and the Producer	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
<b>Wednesday-10/12</b>	Chapter-The Director and the Producer	<b>Play #5 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>

	Assign Play #5	
Date	Reading/Topic	Assignment Due
Monday-10/17	Chapter-Creating the World of the Play	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
Wednesday-10/19	<i>Borderline</i> Tour/ Chapter-Creating the World of the Play Assign Play #6	
Monday-10/24	Chapter-Scenery	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
Wednesday-10/26	Chapter-Scenery Assign Play #7	<b>Play #6 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
Monday-10/31	Chapter-Stage Costumes	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
Wednesday-11/02	Chapter-Stage Costumes Assign Play #8	<b>Play #7 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
Monday-11/07	Chapter-Lighting and Sound	<b>Chapter Reflection due by 11:59pm</b>
Wednesday-11/09	Chapter-Lighting and Sound	<b>Play #8 Reaction due by 10:20am</b>
Monday-11/14	-	
Wednesday-11/16	<i>Zoot Suit</i> Tour	
Monday-11/21	-	
Wednesday-11/23	Production Experience	
Monday-11/28	-	
Wednesday-11/30	Wrap Up/Review	
Wednesday-12/07	-	<b>Final Exam</b>

