

**Instructor:** Marissa Diaz**Office Location:** N/A**Virtual Hours:** By Appointment**Cell Phone:** 915-276-3124**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.

**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.

**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. Access to UTEP Library Database from home
3. Microsoft Word or Google Docs
4. Adobe Reader - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
5. Positive Attitude, Good Work Ethic and the desire to have fun, but think critically!

**Communication:**

- Phone: **915-276-3124**. You can call me M-F between 9am and 3pm and I will return calls at this time.
- Because this is an online class any meetings will be done virtually by appointment.
- Email through Blackboard - I respond to all emails M-F between 8:30am-3pm. Please 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 class and use the "Email Professor" link on the left.
- Additional communication information can be found on blackboard in the introduction module.

**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's 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.

**Learning Modules**

The class is divided into 4 learning modules/units and we will complete one module a week. These modules will consist of outside reading material, videos, quizlets, and your homework. See due dates below. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard please be sure to get in touch with the Help Desk for assistance.

## **Class Attendance & Participation**

This is an online class. You should be checking in frequently to read announcement and emails. I will be sending out reminders for the work you have due every week. You are required to participate actively online. I have a few items that will be used for grading.

## **Intro to Theatre Online– Grading**

*The grading is a weighted grading system – each section is explained below*

### **Participation – 15% of final grade**

*These assignments will come to a total of 21 points and then converted to a percentage*

- Introduction Discussion Board – 5 points
- Syllabus Quiz -12 points
- Self-evaluations – 1 point each - 3 points total

### **Exams – Averaged – Worth 20% of final Grade**

*These exams are averaged*

- Exam 1, 2 and 3 – percentage grade at 100% each –I will drop the lowest exam score
- These are unit exams and not cumulative. All are online and you have a window of time to take them with a set due date. They are timed and randomized. You are allowed to use your textbook, notes and quizlets. You can take these exams 2x, highest score is kept.

### **Final - Worth 20% of Final Grade**

- Review of a digital play – based of 100 points
- You will be watching a final play online to review using all the information you have learned this semester write a well-structured review of the production. Instructions and a Rubric will be provided on Blackboard.

**Quizlets – Worth 20% of final grade** – You can take them 3x and the highest grade is kept. I will drop the lowest quizlet and then average your quizlets scores

Quizlet Past & Present (15pts)

Quizlet Actor (10pts)

Quizlet Role & Imagination (10pts)

Quizlet Stage Spaces (10pts)

Quizlet Background/Expectations (10pts)

Quizlet Scenery Design (13pts)

Quizlet Playwriting (10pts)

Quizlet Costume Design (15pts)

Quizlet Directors & Producers (10pts)

Quizlet Light/Sound Design (14pts)

**Homework – Worth 25% of final grade** – This is simply graded on a complete/incomplete scale. I will give partial credit on the first discussion board to help you learn. So you will either get a 1 or a 0. There are 4 homework assignments and your homework final grade will be presented in a percentage. I will drop the lowest one, if any.

*The Container/Theatre's Role Discussion Board*

*Critic Discussion Board*

*Things I Know to Be True Journal (Creative Process Evaluation)*

*Design Module Homework*

## **Extra Credit**

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Due to the nature of the online class, there is no room for extra credit. If you complete every assignment, you will pass the class, that is a promise I can make. I do however drop lowest exam, quizlet and homework.

## **Late Work**

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**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.

## **Course Drop Policy**

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I will not drop you from the course, but if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

## **Copyright Statement**

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

## **Guidelines for communicating online:**

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- 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.
- 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.

**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.
- 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.

**Online Behavior and Expectations**

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**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.
- 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.
- Your work schedule, military deployment, athletic events, travel, vacations, sick children, broken computer, lack of access to internet, employment at UTEP, etc. are not valid excuses for missing any work in this class. If you are sick and unable to submit an assignment you will be required to provide a doctor's note in order to submit a late assignment.
- 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.

## **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.

## **Course Resources**

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UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

### **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 747-4357. Hours are M-T 7a-9p, Fri 7a-6p, Sat 10a-2p and Sun 12-5p.

### **Academic Support**

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

### **Individual Resources**

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

### **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.

## Course Schedule with important due dates

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- You can do your work ahead of time – every component of class is open and ready. **I don't accept late work.**
- Refer to each module for detailed explanation of self-learning content and requirements such as readings, video and other online learning content.

### **Schedule**

### **Assignments/Due Dates**

#### **July 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction Module &  
Theatre's Role in Society Module

Initial post of Intro Disc Board - **July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Role of Theatre/Container Disc Board Initial Post - **July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Introduction Discussion Board Peer Comments - **July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Introduction Module Quiz - **July 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Peer comments on Role of Theatre/Container Disc - **July 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Theatre's Role Self-Assessment - **July 16<sup>th</sup>**

#### **July 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Audience Module

Critic Discussion Board Initial Post - **July 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Critic Discussion Board Peer Comments - **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
3 Quizlets in the module - **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
The Audience Self-Assessment - **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam 1 – July 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### **July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Creative Team Module

3 Quizlets – **July 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Things I Know to Be True* Evaluation – **July 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Creative Team Module Self-Assessment – **July 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Exam 2 – August 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup> (Ends on a Saturday)**

The Design Team Module

4 Quizlets – **August 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Design Homework – **August 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### **August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam 3 – August 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Review – August 8<sup>th</sup>**