Introduction to Theatre – THEA 1313 CRN: 10760

Syllabus- Fall 2023 Online

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Course Communication:

- Email through Blackboard **ONLY.** I will make every attempt to respond in a timely manner to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receiving it. Do not email at utep.edu because it will get lost in the shuffle, I will miss it and will not be able to respond. Please log into our Blackboard class and use the "email professor" link on the left.
- Additional communication information can be found on the Blackboard in the introduction module.
- Announcements: Please check Blackboard announcements frequently for updates, deadline changes, or other important messages.

Video Calls/Meetings: Video calls or meetings may be set up as needed throughout the semester through Microsoft Teams or Zoom. 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 the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others' ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must always be provided to the instructor and classmates 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 a 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 the professor and classmates 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 who 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.

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 class over the course of the semester, checking blackboard daily, being prepared for class and complete all assignments. My job is to provide a positive environment through class discussions and assignments that encourage the desire to learn, guide the students through the course and make sure that the students feel comfortable contacting me to ask any questions or to talk about the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be an exploration of theater arts from its origins to the present and the way it depicts the human experience and how it relates to the written word. The social and cultural influences it derives from

will serve as tools for understanding the different techniques and technical aspects that collaborate to create a production. 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 OBJECTIVE

At the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the basic knowledge of theatre.
- Develop an 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:

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 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

• Adobe Reader – http://get.adobe.com/reader/

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.

• Students are expected to maintain a classroom environment, which is conducive to learning.

• **Late work will not be accepted, with 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.

Students with Disabilities Policy: If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodation, you should contact The Cass Office at 747-5148 or at cass@utp.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

Copyright Statement: Some materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of the student currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further distributed.

Subject Matter: The performing arts have the 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 the plays or discussing specific subjects, please reach out to me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodation. 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 manner. 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.

Attendance Policy:

This is an online class. You should be checking in frequently to read announcements and emails. I will send out reminders. You have work due every week.

Online Behavior and Expectations

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 as one's 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
- Students agree to treat fellow students, UTEP faculty, and staff, with respect and collaborate with all group members in a professional manner.
- Students understand that copyright laws protect the materials used in this class. Students 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. Students will not upload the aforementioned materials to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, Facebook, or any other Web Publishing System. Students 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. 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 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 is 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.

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.
- I do not drop students from class; that is your choice and responsibility.
- 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.

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 log out when you are finished using the system.

Guidelines for communicating online:
- Treat the 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 others). Do not send confidential 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.
- Send your message with your name and return e-mail address. Think before you send an 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 them. 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 opinions 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.

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 in Room 300. You can contact the Help Desk via email, helpdesk@utep.edu, or by phone at 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7am -8pm, Sat 9am -10pm and Sun 12-4pm.

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 healthcare 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 in deciding 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).

Grading Breakdown:

This is a point-based class, you can earn up to 116 points, but you only need 90 to get an A

0-59 = F   60-69 = D   70-79 = C   80-89 = B   90-116 = A

You have an extra 16 points in work that can make up for any assignments missed.

Course Schedule with important due dates

- Each new module will be available in its entirety when it begins. You may work ahead if you wish but be mindful of due dates. **I do not accept late work**.

- Refer to each module for a detailed explanation of self-learning content and requirements such as readings, videos, and other online learning content.
- Exams and quizzes have 2 attempts and therefore computer or internet problems are canceled out.
- **All quizzes will be due Saturday by 11:59 p.m. MST.** These help you prepare for the Exams and are partially built-in extra points.
- **All Self–evaluations will be due Sunday by 11:59 pm MST after completing a module.**
- For discussion board participation, I encourage you to write at least 150 words or more in your post in response to the provided topic. You should also reply (at least 50 words for each response) to the entries of at least two of your colleagues (unless otherwise specified) for each assigned discussion. Refer to the discussion board and course content for further details on each assignment. **The deadline for initial postings is 11:59 p.m. MST every Wednesday. Replies to colleagues are due by 11:59 p.m. MST every Saturday.**
- **Final Production Review Paper – DUE Dec. 13th by 11:59 pm MST**

Schedule, Assignments, and Due Dates

Introduction Module | August 28th – September 2nd

Self-Introduction Discussion Board; Initial post – **Aug 30th (2 points)**
Discussion Board Peer Comments – **Sept 2nd (2 points max,1 point/peer)**
Syllabus Quiz – **Sept 2nd (2 points)**

Theatre's Role in Society Module |September 3rd – September 16th

The Container Discussion Board; Initial Post – **Sept 6th (2 points)**
Peer comments on *The Container* Disc Board – **Sept 9th (2 points max,1 point/peer)**
Pipeline Discussion Board Initial Post – **Sept 13th (2 points)**
Peer comments on *Pipeline* Discussion Board – **Sept 16th (2 points max,1 point/peer)**
Theatre's Role Self-Evaluation – **Sept 17th (2 points)**

The Audience Module | September 17th – October 7th

3 Quizzes in the module
1. Theatre Past and Present **– Sept 23rd (3 points)**
2. Role and Imagination – **Sept. 30th (3 points)**
Critic Discussion Board Initial Post – **Oct. 4th (2 points)**
3. Background and Expectations – **Oct. 7th (3 points)**
Critic Discussion Board Peer Comments – **Oct7th (2 points max,1 point/peer)**
The Audience Self-Evaluation – **Oct. 8th (2 points)**
Exam 1 – **Oct. 14th (6 points)**

Creating the World of the Play Module | October 8th – November 11th

3 Quizzes in the module
1. Playwrighting – **Oct. 14th (3 points)**
2. Directors and Producers – **Oct. 21st (3 points)**
3. Acting – **Oct. 28th (3 points)**

Things I Know to Be True Devised Work Evaluation Journal – **Nov. 4th** (**7 points**)
Creative Team Module Self-Assessment – **Nov. 5th (2 points)**
Exam 2 **– Nov. 11th (6 points)**

Design Team and Production Module | November 5th – December 7th

4 Quizzes in the module
1. Theatre Spaces – **Nov. 11th (3 points)**
2. Scenery and props **– Nov. 18th (3 points)**
3. Stage Costumes – **Nov. 25th (3 points)**
Creative Design Assignment – **Dec. 2nd (7 points)**
4. Lighting and Sound – **Dec. 7th (3 points)**
Exam 3 – **Dec. 10th (6 points)**

Final Production Review Paper – **Dec. 13th (30 points)**

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.