INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE
THEA 1343, section 001

Day/Time: Room:
Instructor: Office:
Office Hour: Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consider the contributions of the playwright, director, actor, designers, and others involved in the process of play production. In addition to lectures, discussions, and video presentations on campus, students in this course will also be required to attend ONE theatre performance outside of class. During the course of the semester, students will complete one Analysis Paper on this production, several Design and Analysis Assignments over the semester’s play, several quizzes and short essays over assigned material, and one Oral Report. **This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Creative Arts.**

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After successfully completing this course, students will:

1. Understand the uses of art for a socially- and culturally-engaged individual;
2. Be able to recognize, analyze, and use the tools of theatre artists;
3. Improve competency in written, oral, and visual communication;
4. Work effectively in a collaborative environment

THECB CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
2. **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
3. **Teamwork skills:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;
4. **Social Responsibility skills:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS

The following assignments (among others) will be used to assess the student’s level of achievement of the THECB Core Curriculum Objectives:

1. Each student will attend a play in his or her community, chosen from a list of options provided by the course instructor, and write a formal essay analyzing the production’s use of the tools of theatre artists to communicate important ideas in the play relevant to the community. (Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Social Responsibility)
2. Each student will be part of a group creating and presenting a theatrical performance inspired by the play script being studied in class and utilizing the tools of theatre artists presented in class material. (Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, Teamwork)

THEATRE ATTENDANCE
Students will be required to attend and write a paper on one theatre production outside of class time. Options for this production will be selected by the professor and will vary each semester. Students will also be encouraged to attend any/all of the Maverick Theatre Company productions for extra credit.

TEXT: A playscript, chosen by the instructor for the course. This play is available in the bookstore. (Inexpensive versions are also available for purchase online.) No other text is required for this course. Students will be expected to spend the money they would have used on a textbook to buy theatre tickets instead. All lecture notes for the course will be available on Blackboard.

MISSED CLASS POLICY
THREE absences are allowed in this class, whether they are excused or unexcused. Each additional absence will result in your final grade being lowered by one full letter grade. Additional absences may be “erased” by attending a play and writing an essay on it (but class participation and any missed work will still be affected). *This policy is in support of the university’s expressed desire to ensure student success through consistent class attendance.

Theatre Arts Attendance/Production Duty Policy:
Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, design, stage management, and/or other major production positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair.

Conferences/Auditions:
Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, students are expected to complete assigned coursework in a timely manner as arranged with the instructor and to notify instructors prior to their absence. Such notification must be in writing. At the discretion of each instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, students are advised to consult with their instructors prior to engaging in such activities.

Tardiness: As with other classes in the Theatre Arts Department, the sign-in sheet for latecomers will remain available for you to register your attendance for the first 15 minutes of class. After that it will be taken up, and any name not recorded will be counted as absent for the day.

Late Work: Quizzes may not be made up after the fact, but can be taken early by arrangement if necessary. Other late work may be made up IF the instructor has been contacted within 24 hours of the missed class or deadline. Without a doctor’s excuse or prior arrangement with the instructor, all late work will be penalized by one full letter grade. No incomplete grades will be assigned for this course.
GRADING RUBRIC

Theatre Paper (60 points); Group Presentation (50 points); Design/Analysis Assignments (40 points); Theatre Presentation (25 points); Quizzes (90 points); class work/homework/participation in group discussions (15 points). Total Points: 280

Extra Credit: 3 points will be awarded for essays written in response to plays produced by the department during the semester, if not being used to “erase” an absence.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. The time to be concerned about your grade is NOT the week before finals—it is ALL semester.

Expectations for Out-Of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. The Office for Students with Disabilities is located on the first floor of University Hall, and their email address is http://www.uta.edu/disability/.

DROP POLICY
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Suspected violators will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs. **Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.**

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/sfs](http://www.uta.edu/sfs).