The Art of the Theatre Spring 2015 MWF
THEA1310.001 12:00 – 12:50 MWF CI 138
  Professor Philip Johnson  Philip.Johnson@tamucc.edu  825-2361
Bay Hall 321  Office hours M-F 10-10:50 and by appointment.

The Art of the Theatre explores the origins, elements and ideas concerning theatre as it affects us today. This is accomplished through discussions of the text and plays to be read for class, an exploration into the creative processes associated with the production of plays and an examination the theatre through the imagination of both the theatre artist and audience. The class will also view and critique plays according to information provided in class.

Student Learning Objectives:
1. Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility: The student will learn an overview of the history of the Theatre and understand the historical, social, and cultural influences that inform and shape it as an art form. The student will demonstrate this understanding through an essay on the social responsibility or moral lesson that the live play they view conveys.
2. Teamwork and Communication: The student will learn the contributions and collaboration (teamwork) of the playwright, the actor, the designers, and the audience into the creative process of the Theatre and how the Theatre communicates its message to the audience. The student will demonstrate this understanding of teamwork and the communication process through a written report on the live play they view and the design choices that the collaboration of designers and artists use to convey the message of the play.
3. Critical Thinking and Communication: Having learned an overview of the history of the Theatre and it’s connections with history, culture and social responsibility, and the contributions and collaborations (teamwork) of Theatre artists and management, the student will be able to critically evaluate Theatre and develop an informed, aesthetic response to Theatre as an art form. The student will demonstrate their understanding of the historical elements relating to theatre and its impact on culture through specific essay questions on tests. The student will demonstrate this development of an aesthetic response through the critical play analysis and written report on a live play they experience.

TEXT: Theatre: The Lively Art Edwin Wilson, Alvin Goldfarb 8th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2013 An earlier version of the text can be used. Students choosing this option are responsible for updated material missing from earlier texts.
**Web Access**  All materials presented in class will be available on the web Blackboard  bb9.tamucc.edu

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (15 quizzes/assignments @ 10 pts each)</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Critiques 4 total @ 100 pts each</td>
<td>400 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams - 4 @ 100 pts each</td>
<td>400 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1000 pts</td>
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**Grading Scale**

- **A** = 90% or above 900 pts
- **B** = 80 - 89% 800 - 899 pts
- **C** = 70 - 79% 700 - 799 pts
- **D** = 60 - 69% 600 - 699 pts
- **F** = Below 59% 000 - 599 pts

You can check your grade and class standing on Blackboard.

**If you have any questions regarding grades please email me.**

**ATTENDANCE There** will be an attendance sheet for you to sign each class period. The State of Texas asks for information regarding attendance particularly if you are receiving financial aid. I am required to track attendance and utilize the university resources to help with student retention. Not attending class is the number one reason for students failing this course. Show up, sign up, and come to class.

**ASSIGNMENTS**  There will be 15 assignment/quizzes during the course of the term. These tasks will have a limited time in which to be completed if you want full credit. The material covered in the quizzes will be the days reading assignment. Please refer to the schedule for more information. You will receive full credit if you take the complete the assignment before its due date. If you miss a due date you can only receive partial credit. If you are absent from class because of a university sanctioned event you are expected to keep up with your assignments.
PLAY CRITIQUES 4 Total
The critiques consist of a short analysis of plays to be read in class and viewed by students. Each critique will have a set of objectives the student may follow. These objectives can be found by clicking on the title of the play. The link will take you to a guide for writing each critique for each play. Students will follow these guidelines for each critique. Students can follow their own direction with the approval of the instructor. Critiques are to be between 3-5 pages each. Please type your critique using double spacing and a 12 pt font. Plan accordingly as late papers are not accepted. You are responsible for seeing the productions, which are to be critiqued. You should follow the format for papers you learned in Composition 1 and 2, please remember to cite your sources. Failure to use proper citation will result in a lower grade. If you need assistance you can contact the writing center at CASA.

Two of the plays will require your payment for admission. The cost of a ticket is 5 dollars. If this presents a hardship for you please let me know in advance of the day of the performance. I have some latitude to get you into a performance. You must let me know prior to the date of the play!!!

Plan ahead for tickets and performances. If you wait till the last minute you may miss the production. You will be unable to write a critique if you miss the production.

EXAMS will be on-line. If you are having difficulties with Blackboard you must contact the student help desk for assistance. Failure to contact either the help desk or the instructor will result in your not being able to take the test. If you miss the test window for any reason, you will have to wait until the scheduled day of the final exam to make it up. In other words, you will have a paper test and will have to wait until the end of the semester to make it up.

All makeup tests will be held on its scheduled day of the final. Section 001 will be on Wednesday May 13, 2015 8 - 10:30pm. Time subject to change as schedule available on the registrars website was off a day.
PLAYS TO SEE AND READ  Class will read and view live and recorded theatre as available. Additional plays may be viewed with instructor's approval. Play titles will be announced.  The following plays are required as a part of this course.

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** (viewed in class),

**Water By the Spoonful**  Live Theatre Production in Warren Theatre,

**A Doll's House - Video** of Maubou Mines Production

**Assassins**, Live Theatre Production in Wilson Theatre

Misc info

*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism*

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F for the course and your name will be reported to the university for disciplinary action.

*Dropping a Class*

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.  April 10 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

*Classroom/professional behavior*

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This
prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Grade Appeals***
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Disabilities Accommodations***
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity*
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus
Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

*Recommended by university, language provided that mirrors language used in other publications such as the student handbook or rules/procedures.

**Recommended by university, select one from the two items regarding behavior/civility or insert a similar statement based on your class needs.

**Required by SACS or HB2504—language must be included

### Class Schedule

**MWF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 Jan 21 - 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Orientation and Introduction to the Class - Theatre: The Art Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Theatre: The Art Form</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 Jan 26 - 30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Chapter 2 The Audience - Spectators and Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Creating the Dramatic Script</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Watch Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in class</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3 Feb 2 - 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Finish watching Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Discuss Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and prepare for Critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Theatrical Genres,</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4 Feb 9 - 13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Review for first test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chapter 5 The Actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Discuss the Actor</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5 Feb 16 - 20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chapter 6 The Director and the Producer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Discuss the Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Theatre Spaces</td>
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Week 6 Feb 23 - 27
   23  Theatre and Production Facility Tour
   25  Chapter 8 Designers: Scenery and Costumes
   27  Discussion of Scenery and Costumes

Week 7 March 2 - 6
   2  Chapter 9 Designers: Lighting and Sound
   4  Discussion/presentation of Lighting and Sound
   6  Finish up Design and Review for Test 2

Week 8 March 9 - 13  1st Theatre Production  Water By The Spoonful March 10 - 14
   9  Chapter 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
  11  Chapter 10 Continued Medieval Theatre
  13  View examples of Architecture and Theatre types

Week 8 March 16 - 20 SPRING BREAK
   16  NO CLASS
   18  NO CLASS
   20  NO CLASS

Week 9 March 23 - 27
   23  Discuss the production of Water By The Spoonful and prep for Critique #2
   25  Chapter 11 Asian Theatre
   27  Watch Video on Asian & Medieval Theatres

Week 10 March 30 - April 3
   30  Chapter 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
   1  Chapter 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
   3  Discuss Renaissance Theatre

Week 11 April 6 - 10
   3  View A Doll's House
   5  Finish A Doll's House
   7  Discuss A Doll's House

Week 12 April 13 - 17
   13  Discuss the impact of Ancient civilizations upon the Renaissance
   15  Review for Test 3
   17  Test 3

Week 13 April 13 - 17  2nd Theatre Production Assassins Apr 21 - 26
13  Chapter 13 Theatre from Restoration Through Romanticism
15  View theatre of Romanticism and Realism
17  No Class - Day off to see play

Week 14 April 20 - 24
20  Discuss Assassins in class prep for final critique
22  Chapter 14 The Modern Theatre Emerges
24  Examples of Modern Theatre

Week 15 April 27 - May 1
27  Chapter 15 Today's Diverse Global Theatre: Twentieth Century Diversity:
29  1945 to present
31  View excerpts from modern plays
32  Global Theatre examples

Week 16 May 4
34  Review for final exam

FINAL EXAM WILL BE ON-LINE
Due by Wednesday May 13 at 5 pm