The Art of the Theatre Fall 2015
THEA1310.001 11-11:50 MWF Island Hall Rm 164
Professor Philip Johnson Philip.Johnson@tamucc.edu 825-2361
Bay Hall 321 Office hours MWF 10-10:50, TR 11-12 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. The student will learn an overview of the history of the Theatre and understand the historical, social, and cultural influences that inform it.
2. The student will learn the contributions of the playwright, the actor, the designers, and the audience into the creative process of the Theatre.
3. Having learned an overview of the history of the Theatre and the contributions of Theatre artists and management, the student will develop an informed, aesthetic response to Theatre as an art form.

TEXT:
THEATRE: THE LIVELY ART | By WILSON
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 https://iol.tamucc.edu/.

Grading
Attendance 150 pts.
Class Participation (15 quizzes/assignments @ 10 pts each) 150 pts.
Play Critiques 3 total @ 100 pts each 300 pts
Exams - 4 @ 100 pts each 400 pts

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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 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**  3 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 Monday Dec 8, 2014 8 - 10:30pm.

**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),  
**Orange/Julius (Julius Cesar)**  Live Theatre Production in Warren Theatre,  
**Argonautica,** 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. November 7 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 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.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

**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

Week 1 Aug 26 - 28
   26 Orientation and Introduction to the Class- Theatre: The Art Form
   28 Chapter 1 Theatre: The Art Form

Week 2 Aug 31 - Sept 4
   31 Chapter 2 The Audience- Spectators and Participants
   2 Watch Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in class
   4 Finish watching Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Week 3 Sept 7 - 11
   7 LABOR DAY - NO CLASS!!!
   9 Discuss Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and prepare for Critique
   11 Chapter 3 Creating the Dramatic Script

Week 4 Sept 14-18
   14 Chapter 4 Theatrical Genres,
   16 Chapter 5 Acting for the stage
   18 Discuss Acting chapter - Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Critiques Due

Week 5 Sept 21 - 25
   21 Chapter 6 The Director and the Producer
   23 Chapter 7 Theatre Spaces
   25 Chapter 8 Designers: Scenery and Costumes

Week 6 Sept 28 - Oct 2
   28 Discussion of Scenery and Costumes
   30 Chapter 9 Designers: Lighting and Sound
2 Discussion/presentation of Lighting and Sound

Week 7 Oct 5-9
5 Theatre and Production Facility Tour
7 Finish up Design and Review for Test 2
9 Chapter 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre

Week 8 Oct 12 - 16
12 View examples of Architecture and Theatre types
14 View Greek and Roman play excerpts
16 No class - use to make time to see production of Orange/Julius

Week 9 Oct 19 - 23
19 Discuss the production of Orange/Julius and prep for Critique #2
21 Chapter 11 Asian Theatre
23 Watch Video on Asian & Medieval Theatres

Week 10 Oct 26-30
26 Chapter 12 Renaissance Theatres
28 Discuss Renaissance Theatre
30 Review for Test 3m Orange/Julius Critiques Due

Week 11 Nov 2 - 6
2 Chapter 13 Theatre from Restoration Through Romanticism
4 View theatre of Romanticism and Realism
6 Continue viewing plays from the Romantic and Realistic movements

Week 12 Nov 9 - 13 2nd Theatre Production Argonautica Nov 10 – 15
9 Chapter 14 The Modern Theatre Emerges
11 Examples of Modern Theatre
13 Continue Discussion

Week 13 Nov 16 - 20
16 Discuss Argonautica in class prep for final critique
18 Chapter 15 Today’s Diverse Global Theatre: Twentieth Century Diversity 1945 to present
20 View excerpts from modern plays

Week 14 Nov 23 -27
23 Global Theatre examples Argonautica critiques Due
25 Thanksgiving Break
27 Thanksgiving Break
Week 15  Nov 30
30  Review for final exam

Friday  Scheduled day for Final exam -
Dec 4, 2015  Day to turn in papers, projects, missed assignments