THE ART OF THE THEATRE
THR 1310.001, MWF 9:00-9:50am IH 164
Spring 2016
Instructor: Heather Honnold
Office hours: Mondays 11a-12:30p and by appointment Bay Hall 3.33

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
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 OUTCOMES:
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 explore 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 communications 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 its 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.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Theatre: The Lively Art by Edwin Wilson, Alvin Goldfarb 8th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2013. An earlier version of the test can be used. Students choosing this option are responsible for updated material missing from earlier texts.

Heidi Chronicles by Wendy Wasserstein (a scanned copy of the script is posted on Blackboard)
WEB ACCESS:
All materials presented in class will be available on the web Blackboard. bb9.tamucc.edu

ATTENDANCE:
You will be allowed three absences without your grade being impacted. For the next two absences your final grade will lower by a letter. On your fifth absence, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Special circumstances affecting this policy may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

There will be an attendance sheet for you to sign each class period.

TARDIES:
Three late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

LATE WORK:
No late work will be accepted.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:
Quizzes/Assignments
There will be 16 quizzes/assignments throughout the semester. The quizzes or short assignments will cover both class and reading materials for the week. Some of these quiz/assignments will be given in class and some may be given on Blackboard.

Play Reviews
You will complete four play reviews. Two of these plays will be viewed in class. The other two plays will be seen outside of class and will require your payment for admission. The cost of a ticket is $5. If this presents a hardship for you, please let me know in advance of the day of the performance. Plan ahead for tickets and performances. If you wait until the last minute you may miss the production and you will be unable to write a critique.

Reviewed plays are as follows:
Driving Miss Daisy, featuring Angela Lansbury and James Earl Jones (viewed in class)
Heidi Chronicles, live theater production in the Wilson Theatre (March 1-6)
Private Lives, Chichester Festival Theatre Production (viewed in class)
Rent, live theater production in the Warren Theatre (April 19-24)

You will be given guidelines for the written review. Each review will have a set of objectives to follow. Reviews are to be between 3-5 pages each. Please type your review using double-spacing and 12 point font. 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.
Exams
There will be a midterm exam and a final exam for the course. The midterm will cover the material discussed and assigned up to the time of the midterm. The final exam will cover the material discussed and assigned after the midterm. The final exam is not cumulative.

Quiz/Assignments (16 quizzes/assignments at 10 points each) 160 points
Play Reviews (4 total at 110 pts each) 440 points
Exams (2 total at 200 pts each) 400 points

1000 Total Points

Grading Scale:
A=100-90% (above 900 points)
B=89-80% (800-899 points)
C=79-70% (700-799 points)
D=69-60% (600-699 points)
F=59-0% (000-599 points)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating will receive an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

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.

DISABILITY SERVICES
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, Room #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.
GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

COURSE OUTLINE:

MWF 9:00-9:50 am

Week 1
Jan 20 Orientation and Introduction to the Class
Jan 22 Chapter 1: The Art Form

Week 2
Jan 25 Chapter 2: The Audience
Jan 27 Chapter 3: Creating the Dramatic Script
Jan 29 Watch Driving Miss Daisy in class

Week 3
Feb 1 Driving Miss Daisy
Feb 3 Discuss Driving Miss Daisy and prepare for review.
Feb 5 Chapter 4: Theatrical Genres

Week 4
Feb 8 Driving Miss Daisy Reviews due
Feb 10 Chapter 5: The Actor
Feb 12 Chapter 5: The Actor cont.

Week 5
Feb 15 The Director cont.
Feb 17 Chapter 7: Theatre Spaces
Feb 19 Theatre and production facility tour

Week 6
Feb 22 Chapter 8: Designers – Scenery and Costumes
Feb 26 Discussion of Heidi Chronicles Script

Week 7
* Heidi Chronicles, live theater production in the Wilson Theatre (March 1-6)
Feb 29 Chapter 9: Designers – Lighting and Sound
March 2 Designers – Lighting and Sound, cont.
March 4 Review for Midterm Exam
Week 8
March 7  Midterm Exam
March 9  Heidi Chronicles Reviews due. Discuss production.
March 11  Videos

Week 9
Spring Break

Week 10
March 21  Chapter 10: Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
March 23  Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre cont.
March 25  Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre cont.

Week 11
March 28  Chapter 11: Asian Theatre
March 30  Asian Theatre cont.
April 1  Chapter 12: Renaissance Theatre

Week 12
April 4  Renaissance Theatre cont.
April 6  Private Lives
April 8  Private Lives

Week 13
April 11  Private Lives discussion and prepare for review
April 13  Chapter 13: Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism
April 15  Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism

Week 14
*Rent, live theater production in the Warren Theatre (April 19-24)
April 18  Private Lives Reviews due.
Chapter 14: The Modern Theatre Emerges
April 20  The Modern Theatre Emerges cont.
April 22  Chapter 15: Today’s Diverse Global Theatre

Week 15
April 25  No class. Work on Rent reviews.
April 27  Rent reviews due.
Discussion of Rent.
April 29  Global Theatre cont.

Week 16
May 2  Review for Final Exam

Final Exam
Wed, May 11 - 8 am