The Art of the Theatre Fall 2016
THEA1310.001 9:30 – 10:45 T TH CI 113
Professor Philip Johnson Philip.Johnson@tamucc.edu 825-2361
Bay Hall 321 Office hours M-F 11-11:50, 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. 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://bb9.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 400pts

Total 1000pts
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. If you are a student athlete or are attending a university approved activity that gives you an excused absence it is your job to let me know ahead of time and make arrangements to make up missed assignments, papers, and tests

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),
**Good for Otto** Live Theatre Production in Warren Theatre,
**Peter and the Starcatchers**, 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 PROCESS**
Students who feel they have 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. 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 ([http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-))
resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**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.

**Green Zone.** I have taken the Green Zone training on campus and support our veterans. Also suggest you check out [http://vets.tamucc.edu/transition.php](http://vets.tamucc.edu/transition.php) if you are in need of more information. You are welcome to come and talk about the course or other issues you may be having and I will help you as much as I am able. 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
Art of Theatre Class Schedule

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Week 1

25-Aug  Orientation and Introduction to the Class- Theatre: The Art Form  
          Chapter 1 Theatre: The Art Form

Week 2

30-Aug  Chapter 2 The Audience- Spectators and Participants
1-Sep    Watch Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in class

Week 3

6-Sep    Discuss Cat on a Hot Tin Roof and prepare for Critique
8-Sep    Chapter 3 Creating the Dramatic Script
          Review for Test 1

Week 4

13-Sep   Chapter 4 Theatrical Genres,
15-Sep   Chapter 5 Acting for the stage
          Discus Acting chapter - Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Critiques Due

Week 5

20-Sep   Chapter 6 The Director and the Producer
22-Sep   Chapter 7 Theatre Spaces

Week 6

27-Sep   Chapter 8 Designers: Scenery and Costumes
29-Sep   Chapter 9 Designers: Lighting and Sound
          Discussion/presentation on Design

Week 7

4-Oct    Theatre and Production Facility Tour
6-Oct    Finish up Design and Review for Test 2

Week 8

11-Oct   1st Theatre Production Otto in Wilson Theatre
13-Oct   Chapter 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre

Week 9

18-Oct   Discuss the production of Otto and prep for Critique #2
20-Oct   View Greek and Roman play excerpts
Week 10
25-Oct  Chapter 11  Asian Theatre
27-Oct  Watch Video on Asian & Medieval Theatres

Test 3 is On-Line

Week 11
1-Nov  Chapter 12 Renaissance Theatres
3-Nov  Discuss Renaissance Theatre
       Review for Test 3m   Orange/julius Critiques Due

Week 12
8-Nov  Chapter 13 Theatre from Restoration Through Romanticism
10-Nov  View theatre of Romanticism and Realism
        Continue viewing plays from the Romantic and Realistic movements

Week 13  2nd Production **Peter and the Starcatchers** in Warren Theatre
15-Nov  Chapter 14 The Modern Theatre Emerges
17-Nov  Examples of Modern Theatre
        Discuss **Peter and the Starcatchers** in class prep for final critique

Week 14
22-Nov  Reading Day
24-Nov  Reading Day
        Thanksgiving Break

Week 15  Peter and the Starcatchers due
29-Nov  Chapter 15 Today’s Diverse Global Theatre: Twentieth Century Diversity 1945 to present
1-Dec  View excerpts from modern plays

Final Week
6-Dec  Last Day of Class  Review for final exam
7-Dec  Reading Day

13-Dec  Scheduled day for Final exam - Day to turn in papers, projects, missed assignments
        Final exam must be completed by 10:30 pm on Dec 13