THE ART OF THE THEATRE
THR 1310.001, MWF 9:00-9:50am  OCNR 145
Spring 2017
Instructor:  Heather Honnold
Office hours:  Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8am or by appt.
Heather.Honnold@tamucc.edu

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:

An earlier version of the test can be used. Students choosing this option are responsible for
updated material missing from earlier texts.

Fences by August Wilson (a scanned copy of the script is posted on Blackboard)
Disgraced by Ayad Akhtar (a scanned copy of the script is posted on Blackboard)
Bicycle Country by Nilo Cruz (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 every absence beyond three, 10 points will be deducted off your final course score. 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 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. **There is no make-up assignment for missing a performance.

Reviewed plays are as follows:
Billy the Kid by Michael Morpurgo, Adapted by Tony Graham (viewed in class)
Heathers: The Musical, live theater production (March 7-11)
Private Lives, Chichester Festival Theatre Production (viewed in class)
Cloud Nine by Caryl Churchill, live theater production (April 18-23)

You will be given guidelines for the written review. Each review will have a set of objectives to follow. Reviews are generally between 2-4 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. 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.

Group Project
You will work as a group to develop a director’s concept, design concepts, and dramaturgy materials for one of the three plays we’ve read for class. Your group will present your concepts and ideas to the class in a ten-minute presentation during our scheduled final exam session. In addition, you will each prepare a teamwork/group analysis to turn in.

Quiz/Assignments 200 points
Play Reviews (4 total at 100 pts each) 400 points
Exams (2 total at 150 pts each) 300 points
Group Project 100 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.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
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 (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). 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-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
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.

COURSE OUTLINE:

MWF 9:00-9:50 am

Week 1
Jan 18  Orientation and Introduction to the Class
Jan 20  Chapter 1: The Art Form

Week 2
Jan 23  Chapter 2: The Audience
Jan 25  Chapter 3: Creating the Dramatic Script
Jan 27  Watch *Billy the Kid* in class

Week 3
Jan 30  *Billy the Kid*
Feb 1  Discuss *Billy the Kid* and prepare for review.
Feb 3  Chapter 4: Theatrical Genres

Week 4
Feb 6  *Billy the Kid* Reviews due
      Chapter 5: The Actor
Feb 8  Chapter 5: The Actor cont.
Feb 10  Chapter 6: The Director
Week 5
Feb 13  The Director cont.
Feb 15  Fences reading due
Feb 17  Chapter 7: Theatre Spaces

Week 6
Feb 20  Chapter 8: Designers – Scenery and Costumes
Feb 22  Designers – Scenery and Costumes cont.
Feb 24  Chapter 9: Designers – Lighting and Sound

Week 7
Feb 27  Bicycle Country reading due
Mar 1  Review for Midterm Exam
Mar 3  Midterm Exam

Week 8
*Heathers: The Musical*, live theater production in Center for the Arts building (Mar 7-11)
Mar 6  Disgraced reading due
Mar 8  Chapter 10: Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
Mar 10 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre cont.

Spring Break March 13-17

Week 9
Mar 20 Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre cont.
Mar 22 Heathers: The Musical Reviews due. Discuss production.
Mar 24 Greek, Roman and Medieval cont.

Week 10
Mar 27 Watch Private Lives in class
Mar 29 Watch Private Lives in class cont.
Mar 31 Watch Private Lives in class cont.
Private Lives discussion and prepare for review
Final project group meeting time

Week 11
Apr 3 Chapter 12: Renaissance Theatre
Apr 5 Renaissance Theatre cont.
Apr 7 Private Lives Reviews due.
Renaissance Theatre cont.

Week 12
Apr 10 Video – Comedy of Errors
Apr 12 Chapter 13: Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism
Apr 14 Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism

Week 13
*Cloud Nine*, live theater production in Center for the Arts building (Apr 18-23)
Apr 17 Chapter 14: The Modern Theatre Emerges
Apr 19 The Modern Theatre Emerges cont.
Apr 21 Video
Final Project group meeting time

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<td>Apr 24</td>
<td><em>Cloud Nine</em> Review due.</td>
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<td>Discuss <em>Cloud Nine</em></td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
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Final Exam Session

| Wed, May 10 at 8 am | Group Project Presentations |  |