THE ART OF THE THEATRE
THR 1310.001, MWF 2:00-2:50am
Spring 2019
Instructor: Heather Honnold

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays 3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesdays 11:00am-noon
Fridays 11:00am-noon

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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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, 50 points will be deducted off your final course score (half a letter grade). 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.

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 $5-15. 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)  
_Mamma Mia!_ live theater production at The Harbor Playhouse (March 7-31 – Fri, Sat & Sun Performances)  
_Private Lives_, Chichester Festival Theatre Production (viewed in class)  
_The Wolves_ by Sarah DeLappe, live theater production (April 15-20)

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
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 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 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.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope 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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, 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.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. 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. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

STATEMENT OF CIVILITY
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.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE:
Schedule subject to change.
Updates to this outline will be posted on Blackboard.

MWF 2:00-2:50pm

Week 1
  Jan 14  Orientation and Introduction to the Class
  Jan 16  Chapter 1: The Art Form
  Jan 18  Chapter 2: The Audience

Week 2
  Jan 21  Watch Billy the Kid in class
  Jan 23  Billy the Kid in class & Discussion
  Jan 25  Chapter 3: Creating the Dramatic Script

Week 3
  Jan 28  Chapter 4: Theatrical Genres
  Jan 30  Billy the Kid Reviews due
  Feb  1  Chapter 5: The Actor
  Feb  3  Chapter 5: The Actor cont.

Week 4
  Feb  4  Chapter 6: The Director
  Feb  6  The Director cont.
  Feb  8  Fences reading due

Week 5
  Feb 11  Film
  Feb 13  Chapter 7: Theatre Spaces
  Feb 15  Chapter 8: Designers – Scenery and Costumes
Week 6
- Feb 18: Designers – Scenery and Costumes cont.
- Feb 20: Chapter 9: Designers – Lighting and Sound
- Feb 22: Bicycle Country reading due

Week 7
- Feb 25: Chapter 9: Designers – Lighting and Sound
  Scenic Design Assignment - Blackboard
- Feb 27: Chapter 8: Designers – Scenery and Costumes
- Mar 1: Disgraced reading due

Week 8

* Mamma Mia!, live theater production in Center for the Arts building (Mar 7-31)
- Mar 4: Putting the Production Together
- Mar 5: Midterm Exam Review
- Mar 8: Midterm Exam

Spring Break March 11-15

Week 9
- Mar 18: The Origins of Drama
- Mar 22: Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre
  Greek, Roman and Medieval cont.

Week 10
- Mar 25: Chapter 12: Renaissance Theatre
- Mar 27: Renaissance Theatre cont.

Week 11
- Apr 1: Mamma Mia! Review due
  Video – Comedy of Errors
- Apr 3: Chapter 13: Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism
- Apr 5: Theatre from the Restoration through Romanticism and Beyond

Week 12
- Apr 8: Watch Private Lives in class
- Apr 10: Watch Private Lives in class cont.
- Apr 12: Watch Private Lives in class cont.
  Final project group meeting time

Week 13

* The Wolves, live theater production in Center for the Arts building (Apr 15-20)
- Apr 15: Private Lives review due
  Chapter 14: The Modern Theatre Emerges
Apr 17   The Modern Theatre Emerges cont.
Apr 19   Video
            Final Project group meeting time

Week 14

Apr 22   The Wolves Review due
            Discuss The Wolves
Apr 24   Modern Theatre
Apr 26   Modern Theatre
            Group meeting time

Week 15
Apr 29   Final Exam Review
May 1    Final Exam

Final Exam Session
            Wed, May 8 at 1:45pm  Group Project Presentations