The Art of the Theatre Fall 2019  
THEA1310.001 9:30-10:45 T, TH Engineering 104
Professor Philip Johnson Philip.Johnson@tamucc.edu  825-2361
Bay Hall 321  Office hours M-F 10-10:50, 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. We will use a Team Based Learning approach during this course. Students will be assigned to learning teams. Students will work in teams to achieve a better understanding of the content and practice of Theatre for this course.

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.

This will be accomplished through the following steps
1. Students will learn initial content for the course by reading material and completing exercises and quizzes on the e-book for the course
2. Individuals are responsible for being prepared for each day’s lesson and have completed the day’s assignment before coming to class
3. Students will meet with their teams at the beginning of class to discuss and answer questions as a group in class and prepare feedback report on their discussions
4. Students will be able to question and/challenge the questions as part of feedback
5. In class activity will be directed towards relaying and reaffirming important content for that day’s lesson.

TEXT and ON-LINE Resources:
The ebook is available in the bookstore at the cash registers. Make sure you get the card for section 001. It is also available on-line from the publisher; Great River Learning. The URL is www.grtep.com. This course ‘s content comes from e book and resources located on blackboard. Material can be found on Blackboard at BB9.tamucc.edu. You will have daily assignments from the e-book. Your group assignments, tests and critique submittals will take place on blackboard. Doing well requires you paying attention to both locations on the internet and completing all assignments on-line and in class

It is important you understand there are daily class assignments on-line that have due dates for each class. Each class day has reading and questions at the ends of each chapter as well as open ended questions. Students must complete the content before the class starts each day for credit.
Grading
Attendance and in-class group work 1500 pts.
E-book Assignments 1950 pts.
Play Critiques 3 total @ 500 pts each 1500 pts
Exams - 2 @ 1000 pts each 2000 pts

Total 6950 pts

Grading Scale
A = 90% and above 6950 - 6255 pts
B = 80 - 89% 6254 – 5560 pts
C = 70 - 79% 5559 – 4865 pts
D = 60 - 69% 4864 – 4170 pts
F = Below 59% 4169 – 0000 pts

If you have any questions regarding grades please email me.

ATTENDANCE
Students will sign in each class daily, both in their groups as part of their attendance and group grade. Missing class limits your grade in your group and will affect your final grade. 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 to arrange to make up missed assignments, papers, and tests. A student missing more than 3 classes will receive one grade lower on their final grade. Students missing more than 6 will receive an F for the course and be asked to drop the class.

ASSIGNMENTS
Each class day will have a reading assignment for each day of class. There are open ended responses and exercises, discussion questions, and a quiz for each chapter. Students are expected to have these assignments completed and the chapters read before class. There will be weekly group assignments, these will be based upon in-class discussion or questions from each chapter. The online assignments have due dates and students will not be able to complete them once the class has started. Group assignments cannot be made up.

Student athletes or students attending university sanctioned events that are excused absences are expected to keep up with assignments. Students are required to make arrangements for missed class days. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the event in order for this consideration to be made. Students should also work with their groups to make sure they continue participation in group activities.
**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. You will one chance to take the test. If you experience difficulties with Blackboard you must contact the student help desk for assistance. In the past, there have been issues with blackboard and I am aware of these issues. Please make sure you have a secure internet connection and a stable platform to take the test. Please allow enough time to take the test. It will be open for several days. Don’t wait until the last minute to take the test and get locked out.

**Live Theatre**

The class will read and view live and recorded theatre as available. Additional plays may be viewed with instructor's approval. The following plays are required as a part of this course.

- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** (viewed in class) [https://ffilms.org/cat-on-a-hot-tin-roof-1958/](https://ffilms.org/cat-on-a-hot-tin-roof-1958/)
- **Let the Right One In**  Live Theatre Production in Wilson Theatre, Oct 15 – 20

Please clear your calendar for the two live productions. You are **required** to see both productions. Tuesday through Saturday performance start at 7:30 pm. Sunday matinees start at 2:00 pm. If you miss the performance you will not be able to complete the critique. I do not allow you to make up these assignments. If you have issues you need to make arrangements prior to the run of the show.

**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 a failing grade for that assignment.

**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 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. Nov 8, 2019 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**

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.C2.03, *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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
Art of Theatre Class Schedule
T, TH

Week 1
27-Aug Orientation and Introduction to the course. Theatre as an Art Form
     Group assign and exercise - take syllabus test on-line as prep
29-Aug Chapter 1 - Understanding Theatre as Art and Communication.

Week 2
3-Sep Chapter 2 - Theatre Performance and the Audience
5-Sep Chapter 3 - Creating a Dramatic Script

Week 3
10-Sep Watch Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in class
12-Sep Finish watching Cat

Week 4
17-Sep Discuss the production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
19-Sep Chapter 4 - Theatrical Genres
     Chapter 5 - The Actor

Week 5
24-Sep Chapter 6 - The Director
26-Sep Chapter 7 - Theatre spaces
     Discuss in groups, Actors Directors, Spaces

Week 6
1-Oct Chapter 8 - Scenery, Props, Costumes, and Makeup
3-Oct Chapter 9 The Lighting and Sound Designers - Technology vs Art
     Discussion and presentation of Scenery and props

Week 7
8-Oct Theatre tours - Meet in Center for the Arts
10-Oct Chapter 10 - Putting the Production together. What does it take?
     Discussion questions for chapter 10 Review for first test

Week 8
15-Oct Chapter 11 - Greek and Roman Theatre
     Let the Right One in Performance in Wilson Theatre
17-Oct Continue Chapter 11 - Medieval section

Week 9
18-Oct Discuss Let the Right One In
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter/Section</th>
<th>Topic/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>Chapter 12 - Asian Theatre</td>
<td>Discussion questions chapter 12</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>28-Oct  Chapter 13 - Renaissance Theatre</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>30-Oct  Discussion of Renaissance Theatre</td>
<td>England and Spain</td>
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<td>Discussion of Renaissance Theatre</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>5-Nov  Chapter 14 - Restoration, Romanticism, and other movements</td>
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<td>7-Nov  Continue chapter 14</td>
<td>Videos from Restoration and romanticism productions</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>12-Nov  Chapter 15- Realism and Realistic Movements</td>
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<td>14-Nov  Chapter 15- Realism and Realistic Movements</td>
<td>Hamlet runs Nov 12 - 17</td>
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<td>Chapter 16 - Anti-Realism and Reactions to the Realistic Movements</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>19-Nov  Discussion of The Hamlet</td>
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<td>21-Nov  Chapter 16 - Anti-Realism and Reactions to the Realistic Movements</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>26-Nov  Chapter 17 - Contemporary Theatre</td>
<td>Hamlet Critique due</td>
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<td>28-Nov  Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>3-Dec  Discussion questions for chapter 17</td>
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<td>5-Dec  Reading Day, no class</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12-Dec  Section 001 exam due by 11 AM</td>
<td>9:30-10:45 class time</td>
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