The Art of the Theatre Spring 2020
THEA 1310.001 – Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-9:50  IH 162

Instructor: Marco D. Munoz

Email: marco.munoz@tamucc.edu

Phone: 361- 825-2117
Bay Hall 355. c Office hours M - TH 10-11:30 am, Friday 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and in-class group work</td>
<td>1500 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-book Assignments</td>
<td>1950 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Critiques 3 total @ 500 pts each</td>
<td>1500 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams - 2 @ 1000 pts each</td>
<td>2000 pts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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

**Total 6950 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. *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/)
- **Marie Antoinette** - Live Theatre Production in Wilson Theater April 14-19

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. **April 10th, 2020 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.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the
grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the
course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the
University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_ap
peals.pdf

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
M, W, F

Week 1
22-Jan  Orientation and Introduction to the course. Theatre as an Art Form
        Group assign and exercise.
24-Jan  Chapter 1 - Understanding Theatre as Art and Communication.

Week 2
27-Jan  Chapter 2 - Theatre Performance and the Audience
29-Jan  Chapter 3 - Creating a Dramatic Script
31-Jan  Watch *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in class

Week 3
3-Feb   Finish watching Cat
5-Feb   Discuss the production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
7-Feb   Chapter 4 - Theatrical Genres

Week 4
10-Feb  Chapter 5 - The Actor
12-Feb  Chapter 6 - The Director
        Chapter 7 - Theatre Spaces / Group Disc.
        Actors, Directors and Spaces
14-Feb  *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* Critiques are due.

Week 5
17-Feb  Chapter 8 - Scenery, Props, Costumes, and Makeup
19-Feb  Chapter 9 The Lighting and Sound Designers - Technology vs Art – Group Disc & Present scenery and props.
        Theatre tours - Meet in Center for the Arts
21-Feb  Center for the Arts

Week 6
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Feb</td>
<td>Chapter 10 - Putting the Production together. What does it take?</td>
</tr>
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<td>Discussion questions for chapter 10 / Review for first test</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Feb</td>
<td>Review for first test (Mid-Term)</td>
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<td>28-Feb</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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**Week 7**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 11 - Greek and Roman Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gentlemen’s Guide to Love and Murder - Warren Theatre</td>
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<td>4-Mar</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 11 - Medieval section</td>
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<td>6-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 12 - Asian Theatre</td>
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**Week 8 – Week 9**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>16-Mar</td>
<td>Discuss Gentlemen’s Guide to Love and Murder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 13 - Renaissance Theatre- Italian</td>
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<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 13 - Renaissance Theatre – Spanish English</td>
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**Week 10**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>23-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 13 - Renaissance Theatre- France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 14 - Restoration, Romanticism, and other movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Mar</td>
<td>Continue chapter 14 / Videos from Restoration/ Romantic productions</td>
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**Week 11**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>30-Mar</td>
<td>Chapter 15- Realism and Realistic Movements (GGLM critique due)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Apr</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3- Apr</td>
<td>Chapter 16 Anti-Realism and Reactions to the Realistic Movements</td>
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**Week 12**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-Apr</td>
<td>Chapter 16 - Anti-Realism and Reactions to the Realistic Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Apr</td>
<td>Group Project Workday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Apr</td>
<td>Group Projects Presents</td>
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**Week 13**
13-Nov  **Group Projects Present**
15-Mar  Chapter 17 - Contemporary Theatre

17-Apr  Chapter 17
         Discuss questions

Week 14
20-Apr  Discuss Marie Antoinette

22-Apr  Group Discussion
24-Apr  Group Class Assignment

Week 15
27-Apr  Groups Present
29-Dec  Groups Present
        Group
1-May    Discussions

Week 16
4-May    Review for Final
6-May    Review for Final

Final Exam
8 - May  Final Exam 9:00-10:30 am