Theatre Appreciation – THR 161.003  
Fall 2017

Instructor: Mr. Mark E. Hawkins

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Office Hours: M-W 1:00-4:00p Others by appointment.

Class Time and Place: MWF 11-11:50 – Griffith Fine Arts Building–Room 303

Catalogue Description: Intended primarily for non-theatre majors.  
Credits: 3

Objectives: This course will expose students to the art of theatre and theatrical works through reading, lecture, discussion and required attendance at play productions. A variety of dramatic literature will be read. Students will synthesize and interpret these works through written assignments, group projects, and discussion that will encourage critical thought and the development of intellectually defensible, conscientiously expressed personal opinion.

CORE OBJECTIVES:
1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared goal or purpose.
4. Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:
• Students will develop basic understanding of dramatic literature, dramatic theory and criticism, and performance from multiple perspectives (supports objective #1)
• Students will develop their abilities to analyze, write about, and discuss performance, both informally and through formal presentation (supports objectives 1 and 2)
• Students will learn functions of the various theatrical sub-disciplines and how they relate to each other in production, and the value and purpose of professional and artistic collaboration (supports objective 3)
- Students will learn a broad history of the theatre from ancient to modern, including nontraditional theatrical forms, theatre produced in non-Western cultures, and theatre for specific audiences (supports objective 4)

**Required Texts:**
- **Textbook:** *The Theatre Experience* by Edwin Wilson, 13e
- **Plays:**
  - *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM* (available online)
  - *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* by Lorraine Hansberry (available online)
  - *TARTUFFE* by Moliere (available online)
  - *MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY* by Anne Washburn

**Graded components:**
1) Mid-Term & Final Exams (2) 30%
2) Quizzes (4) 20%
3) Production Critiques (2) 25%
4) Play Reading Journal on D2L 10%
5) Participation/Attendance 15%

**Final Grading:**
- (0-59) F
- (60-69) D
- (69.5-79) C
- (79.5-89) B
- (89.5-100) A

**Exams:**
Two exams will be given covering the lectures and reading material. No makeup exams are given for unexcused absences. (See “Attendance” for what qualifies as an excused absence.) Exams will include multiple choice/short answer questions, and some writing.

**Quizzes:**
Four quizzes will be given covering the reading of the four play scripts. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

**Production Critiques:** You will be required to attend 3 SFA productions--both SFA Mainstage productions and one student production (in the Downstage Theatre).
- *TARTUFFE* by Moliere, October 3-7
- *MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY*, November 7-11
- *BABY WITH THE BATHWATER*, October 27-28

You will select two of these productions and write a critique about them. Details about what to include in the critiques, criteria for evaluation will be discussed in class. Each student will be given a card to obtain tickets at the box office well in advance of the productions. A student who loses this card will be required to purchase tickets at the student rate. You will be required to turn in the card once it is complete. You are required to turn in ONE production critique for TARTUFFE before mid-semester and ONE for MR. BURNS or BABY WITH THE BATHWATER by the end of the semester. I recommend that you complete immediately after seeing the production. Waiting for a couple of weeks will make writing the critique difficult to write. Critiques must be submitted through LiveText (see below).
**Play Reading Journal:** While reading *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *A Raisin in the Sun* students will complete four assigned journal entries in D2L. The topics of these journal entries relate to cultural, social and community issues in the play. Details about the journal, its format, content and grading will be discussed in class.

**Participation:** The participation grade consists of attending the required theatre productions during the semester, contribution to class discussions, appropriate participation in class activities, regular attendance, and adherence to class rules.

**Attendance Policy:** Two (2) absences are forgiven, after which a final grade reduction will be applied for each additional absence. To have an absence excused, documentation of illness or family emergency MUST be provided. It is the student’s responsibility to provide this documentation so the instructor may verify it. Sponsored school events may qualify as excused absences at the instructor’s discretion. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he is tardy or arrives after attendance is taken. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes or assignments from the instructor or a dependable classmate. As stated by School policy: Ten (10) absences in a MWF class will result in an automatic failure of the course.

**Course Work:** All course work must be done and turned in as indicated by the course calendar or discussed in class. This includes tests, quizzes, papers, and other assignments. Students who arrive in class after quizzes or exams have been completed may not take the exam/quiz. Additionally, once the exams/ quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

**General Education Core Curriculum:** This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA e-mail account. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail.
folder and your spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Production Critiques</td>
<td>N/A this semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Classroom Expectations:**
*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Recording lectures is not allowed unless arranged in advance.
2. Cell phones should be set to silent or turned off before class begins. Absolutely NO use of cell phones is allowed in class unless approved in advance or requested by instructor.
3. Use of a cell phone (or other electronic device) during a quiz or exam will result in a grade of zero.
4. During class there will be no reading of outside materials, listening to MP3 devices, working on other topics on your laptop or tablet, or wearing ear phones/ear buds.
5. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
6. Students who sleep or give the appearance of sleeping in class will be counted absent (unexcused).
7. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

**Theater Etiquette (Production Behavior)**

1. Students are expected to dress and behave appropriately while attending theater productions. Students who show up late will not be allowed to enter the theatre.
2. Students seen to be sleeping, using cell phones or engaging in any distracting behavior during productions will not earn a passing grade in this course.

**Tentative Course Calendar**
*PLEASE NOTE: A complete course calendar will be handed out in class. This is a tentative schedule and may be subject to change.*

Week One:
Course Orientation, D2L, Seeing Live Theatre
Part One – The Audience (Chapters 1 & 2)

Week Two:
*WE WILL HAVE CLASS ON MONDAY 9/4.*
Part Two – The Audience (Chapters 2) And Theatre Space (Chapter 3)
Reading #1 & D2L Journal Assignments: *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.*
Getting Tickets & How to Critique a Play, Audience Etiquette.
Week Three:
  Part Two – The Performers and the Director (Chapter 4)
  D2L Journal Assignments: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
  Quiz #1: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

Week Four:
  Part Two – The Performers and the Director (Chapter 5 & 6)
  Reading #2 Assignment: TARTUFFE

Week Five:
  Part Three – THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE PLAY (Chapter 7 & 8)

Week Six:
  Part Three – THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE PLAY (Chapter 8)
  See Main Stage Play: TARTUFFE
  Mid-Term Exam Review

Week Seven:
  Part Three – THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE PLAY (Chapter 9)
  Quiz #2: TARTUFFE.
  MID-TERM Exam – on Chapters 1-8
  First Play Critique Due on LiveText

Week Eight:
  Part Four – THE DESIGNERS (Chapter 9)
  Reading #3 & D2L Journal Assignments: A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Week Nine:
  Part Four – THE DESIGNERS (Chapter 10)
  See Downstage Play: BABY WITH THE BATHWATER

Week Ten:
  Part Four – THE DESIGNERS (Chapter 11)
  Quiz #3: A RAISING IN THE SUN
  Reading #4 & D2L Journal Assignment: MR.BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

Week Eleven:
  Part Five – THE THEATRE TODAY: MUSICAL THEATRE (Chapter 12)
  NO CLASS ON 11/15 & 11/17

Week Twelve:
  THANKSGIVING WEEK – Happy Holidays
Week Thirteen:
  Part Five – THE THEATRE TODAY: MUSICAL THEATRE (Chapter 12)

Week Fourteen:
  Part Five – THE THEATRE TODAY: GLOBAL THEATRE (Chapter 13)
  *Main Stage Play: MR.BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY*

Week Fifteen: “Dead Week”
  Part Five – THE THEATRE TODAY: AMERICAN THEATRE (Chapter 14)
  Quiz #4: MR.BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY
  Review for Final Exam
  Final Play Critique due on LiveText. Blue Ticket Cards are due.

Week Sixteen:
  FINAL EXAM – Textbook (Chap 9-14)

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the
semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor in advance of accommodations and exams to arrange accommodations for that disability.