Theatre Appreciation – THR 161.005  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Brad Maule  
Phone: (936) 468-1479    
E-mail: maulegb@sfasu.edu  
Office: Film Building 201    
Office Hours: M, W, F 12:00 – 2:00 pm by appointment.

Class Time and Place: TR 9:30 – 10:45 – Science Building--Room 139

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

Objectives: This class will introduce you to the art and performance of live theatre. The goal is to make you an informed audience member. Through reading, lectures, discussion, media, and required attendance, you will begin to understand the technical production of plays, gain a historical overview of the theatre, and ultimately develop skills for critical thinking and the ability to express your opinions in an intellectually defensible way.

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.
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:**


**Plays:**

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare (available online)

A story of order and disorder, reality and appearance and love and marriage. Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons are to be married and great celebrations are planned.

**A Raisin in the Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry (available online)

A Raisin in the Sun portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, an African-American family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s. When the play opens, the Youngers are about to receive an insurance check for $10,000. This money comes from the deceased Mr. Younger's life insurance policy.

**SWEAT**

Lynn Nottage’s Pulitzer Prize-winning story of working class Pennsylvanians whose livelihoods are threatened by the sudden disappearance of long held manufacturing jobs plays out in their local bar. Recommended for mature audiences.

**Oklahoma!**

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Pulitzer Prize-winning Innovative musical about two headstrong romantics’ bumpy road to true love and the high-spirited rivalry between farmers and cowboys at the turn of the 20th century.

**Plays to attend: 2 Mainstage**

**Sweat** by Lynn Nottage. (October 2 – 6 at 7:30 pm Turner Auditorium)

**Oklahoma!** By Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II (November 6 – 10 at 7:30 pm Turner Auditorium)
1 Downstage

“Hidden in This Picture” by Aaron Sorkin (September 21 at 7:30 pm).
(September 22, at 2 and 7:30 pm)

“Trifles” by Susan Glaspell (October 12 at 7:30 pm)
(October 13th at 2 pm and 7:30 pm)

“The Women of Lockerbie” by Deborah Brevoort (November 2
at 7:30 pm) (November 3 at 2 and 7:30 pm)

Graded components:
1) Mid-Term & Final Exam (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 play scripts. No makeup
quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

Production Critiques: You will be required to attend 3 productions.
The two SFA Mainstage productions
Orest student production (in the Downstage Theatre).
You will select two of these productions and write a critique about them.
Details about what to include in the critiques, criteria for evaluation and due dates 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 are required to turn in one production critique before mid-semester.

Play Reading Journal: While reading A Midsummer Night’s Dream and A Raisin in the
Sun, students will complete four assigned journal entries. 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.

Participation/Absences/Tardiness: As stated by School policy: Seven (7) absences in a T/TH
class will result in an automatic failure of the course. Only religious holidays, sponsored
school events, and documented medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences.
upon the instructor’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate. 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. Instructors will establish other guidelines regarding attendance and tardiness and their effect on grading for their classes.

**Course Work:** All course work must be done and turned in as indicated by the calendar or discussed in class. This includes tests, quizzes, papers, and other assignments. Tests and quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence. Students who arrive in class after quizzes or exams have been completed may not take the exam/quiz. Additionally, once the exams/quizess are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work.

**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 may 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>
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</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>October 19, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Production Critiques</td>
<td>December 7, 2017</td>
</tr>
<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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</table>
Teamwork | To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. | Group Project |  

Personal Responsibility | To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. | N/A | N/A |  

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

**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, 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: Dates and topics will be revised if necessary. Readings and assignments will be given in class.

Week One: August 28th and 30th

Course Orientation, D2L, Seeing Live Theatre

View film of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

Chapter One: The Audience

Reading Assignment #1: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare.

Week Two: September 4th and 6th

Chapter Two: The Background and Expectations of the Audience

D2L Journal Assignment #1: A Midsummer Night’s Dream: How do the cultural representations within this play relate to or differ from your own culture?

Getting Tickets & How to Critique a Play, Audience Etiquette.

View Movie: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Week Three: September 11th and 13th

Chapter Three: Theatre Spaces: The Audience Views the Stage

D2L Journal Assignment #2: Who is your favorite character in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream? Who is your least? Why?

Quiz #1: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’s DREAM

Week Four: September 18th and 20TH

Downstage: Hidden in This Picture (September 21 – 22)

Chapter Four: Acting

D2L Journal Assignment #3: A Midsummer Night's Dream: What is the most significant scene in the play (in your opinion)?

Reading Assignment #2: “Sweat” by Lynn Nottage
Week Five: September 25th and 27th

Chapter Five: The Director and the Producer

D2L Journal Assignment #4: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”: Describe how you would stage the play? (period, costumes, lights, makeup, music, etc.)

Week Six: October 2nd and 4th

Chapter Six: Creating the World of the Play

See Mainstage Play October 2 – 6 Turner Auditorium 7:30 pm: “Sweat”

Week Seven: October 9 and 11

Downstage: Trifles (October 12 -13)

Quiz #2: “Sweat”

Chapters Seven and Eight: Dramatic Structure and Characters/Theatrical Genres

Review for Mid-Term

Week Eight: October 16th and 18th

MID-TERM Exam – Textbook Chapters 1-8)

Reading Assignment #3: A Raisin in The Sun

First Play Critique Due on D2L

Week Nine: October 23rd and 25th

Chapter Nine: Scenery

D2L Journal Assignment #1: A Raisin in The Sun: Compare the cultural representations in this play to your own culture.

Week Ten: October 30th and November 1

Downstage: The Women of Lockerbie (November 2 – 3)
Chapter Ten: **Stage Costumes**

**Reading Assignment #4:** Oklahoma!

**D2L Journal Assignment #2:** A Raisin in The Sun: Describe the cultural differences between the African Americans in the play and the African in the play.

**Quiz #3:** Raisin in The Sun

**Week Eleven:** November 6th and 8th

Chapter Eleven: **Lighting and Sound**

**D2L Journal Assignment #3:** A Raisin in the Sun

Mainstage Play: November 6 – 10 at 7:30 pm
Turner Auditorium: “Oklahoma!”

**Week Twelve:** November 13th and 15th

Chapter Twelve: **Musical Theatre**

**D2L Journal Assignment #4:** A Raisin in the Sun

**Week Thirteen:** November 20th and 22nd

Thanksgiving holiday.

**Week Fourteen:** November 27th and 29th

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen: **Global Theatre Today/Contemporary Theatre**

**Quiz #4:** “Oklahoma!”

**Week Fifteen:** December 4 – 6 (Dead Week)

**Final Play Critique due** on D2L.

**Ticket Cards** are due.

**Week Sixteen:** Final Exam: December 11th at 8:00 am