Theatre Appreciation
THR 161.502 Fall 2020

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Phone: 936-552-6220
Department: Theatre
Class time and place: Online anytime

Course Description: Intended primarily for non-theatre majors.

EEO's: Exemplary Educational Objectives for the humanities and visual and performing arts:
1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To engage in the creative process or interpretive performance and comprehend the physical and intellectual demands required of the author or visual or performing artist.
5. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
6. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
7. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

SLOs: The student will:
1. Examine a basic understanding of the definitions, processes, personnel, styles, and periods of various kinds of theatre productions and to develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
2. Develop an appreciation of theatre as an art form and enable students to critically evaluate both scripts and theatrical performances as well as to articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Enable students to perceive and analyze how theater of other times and places relates to (or differs from) mainstream, contemporary American theater, as well as demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
4. Associate works in the arts and humanities as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context and demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature philosophy and the arts on intercultural experiences.

Required Texts

2. "Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde  "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles (This one is online)

General Education Core Curriculum Assessment
General Education Core Curriculum

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives listed at the front of this syllabus. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. THR 161 is a general education core curriculum course and fulfills the Critical Thinking Skills general education core curriculum requirement.

During the semester, you will receive an assignment associated with general education core curriculum assessment. When you complete the assignment you will upload the assignment to the “Core Curriculum – Critical Thinking Skills” dropbox that you will find on your account in Brightspace by D2L. This dropbox is for core curriculum assessment only. Your course instructor may provide another set of instructions for submitting this assignment for your course grade.

If you have any questions, please see your instructor or contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at (936) 468-1038 or assessment@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 the Critical Thinking Skills dropbox this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due in D2L</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>Critique 2</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Cheating and Plagiarism: 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.

Penalties may include reprimand or no credit for the assignment or exam, or re-submission of the paper, or make-up exam, or failure of the course.

After a determination of dishonesty, the faculty member shall notify the Office of the Dean of the student’s major by submitting a Report of Academic Dishonesty form, along with supporting documentation as noted on the form. This report shall be made part of the student’s record and shall remain on file with the Dean’s office for at least four years.
Types of academic dishonesty:

1. Altering score/grade
2. Copying
3. Falsifying lab results or references
4. Plagiarism
5. Using unauthorized notes or crib sheet

**Play Critiques:** You will be required to view two Live productions this semester. You will write a critique on both. These critiques should contain your impressions of the performance in regards to acting, directing, scripts, and design elements. **Your Critique will be due before the Thanksgiving break.** This is a major paper and is worth 200 points. You can select any two productions that are recorded live that are presented online or on any live streaming services (youtube, netflix, hulu etc.) but they must be of two different genre's. You can classify that as a musical and a straight play, a comedy and a drama, or two different time periods. Your paper should discuss all of the technical elements and what you see and hear. If you simply write about the plot that does not tell me that you actually watched a production. You should also include a comparison within the paper. How are these performances similar and different? If you happened to see a live production this year that can be one of the productions. If you watched Hamilton on Disney this summer, that can be one of the productions. Otherwise I want you to watch the performances this semester.

**Critique Paper**

**Reports must be typed double-spaced in 12 or 14 font and 1 inch margins.** Include in your paper an introductory paragraph, 3 to 4 body paragraphs using the guidelines below, and a concluding paragraph. **Do not simply summarize the script; use the paper to critique the performances.** The four suggestions below might provide a structure for your paper. You can move from general information to specific opinion (as the questions imply), or you may reorganize to suit your purpose. #2 is crucial!

1. Briefly summarize each plot in a few well-planned sentences.
2. Determine the central image/concept of the productions and explain how the director used dramatic elements (i.e. acting, lighting, sound, costume, set) successfully or unsuccessfully to explicate the image or concept. What seemed to be the central issue? How did the director work to clarify that issue during specific moments of the play?
3. Describe specific aspects, actors, or moments of the production, which you particularly liked and the moments you really didn't like, explain why.
4. Define how the production impacted you (if it did) and discuss what you suspect the intended impact of the play was supposed to be (or should have been). I.e. Do you think the intent of the production came across?

To write a college level paper, each paragraph should have at least 10 sentences or more. Please use spell and grammar check. These will be graded as well as content. All papers for this class will be automatically submitted through turn-it-in. I will see if you have copied any information
form another online source. This could include other student papers. Please make sure you cite your sources very carefully so you will not be committing plagiarism.

**Exams:** Online under Assessments. They will all be timed and you will only have one opportunity available to take the tests. There will be three tests and three quizzes. The tests are only on the lecture content. Many things are in bold. Please take notes as you will not be able to jump back into the lectures during the test. The quizzes are on the three play scripts you will read in class. We will also be discussing these in the live chats.

**Chats:** There will be three chats during the semester. You are only required to attend one for the 25 points. You are welcome to attend more for the information and extra credit.

**Research Projects:** You will present an online report focusing on any subject in live theatre pertaining to this class. Your project will demonstrate an understanding of the material and its relationship to the society of its time. It must be presented in a creative manner other than a report format. Your project must be a balance of information and visual aids. Each person will turn in a two page summary of your research and subject along with a work cited page. There are separate dropboxes for the paper and the visual project. Each person will be required to turn in a Work Cited page of at least three sources. Of these, one must be a book other than your textbook. These are separate from your presentation. This project can be done in a power point fashion, prezi or a video or any other creative way you can think of to present online. It must be submitted in the assignment course tool. If you are doing a power point or a prezi there must be a minimum of 10 to 15 slides and each slide should contain both a visual and bullets of information. An introduction slide and a "The End" slide do not count in the 10 slides. If you are doing a video presentation it must be at least 5 minutes and no more than 8 minutes.

**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

Final Comments: This class should be enjoyable as well as informative. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. **Any plagiarism or cheating on any assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.**
Assignments:
3 tests @ 100 = 300
1 papers @ 200 = 200
1 Project @ 200 = 200
Play Quizzes 3 @ 50 = 150
Assignments/Chats/Discussions = 100

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