Theatre Appreciation – THR 161.501

Instructor: Ms. Jackie Rosenfeld

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Office: GFNA 221       Office Hours: By appointment

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 non-traditional theatrical forms, theatre produced in non-Western cultures, and theatre for specific audiences (supports objective 4)

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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
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<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>
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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>Production Critiques</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>
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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>
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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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Play Reading Journal</td>
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**Required Texts:**

**Plays:**  
*Pride + Prejudice* by Kate Hamill  
*Flick* by Annie Baker  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (any edition, available online at no cost)

**Text:**  
*Theatre the Lively Art* by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb 10th Edition (can be any format of book (e-book or hard copy is great.) ISBN: 9781259916861

**Graded components:**

1) Tests (2)  20%
2) Quizzes (4)  20%
3) Chapter Quizzes (12)  20%
4) Participation/Short Assignments  20%
5) Production Response (2)  20%

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

**Tests:** Two tests will be given covering the material from the text. It will include multiple choice, true false, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.
**Quizzes:** One quiz will be given over this syllabus. Three quizzes will be given covering the reading of the play scripts and one quiz over the viewing of the *Festival of New American Plays*.

**Chapter Quizzes:** There will be a quiz for 13 of the 16 chapters. **Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.**

**Production Critiques:** You will be required to attend both SFA Faculty Directed Production (*Pride + Prejudice* and *Festival of New American Plays*) AND one Student Produced Play (*The Disruptive Discursive Delusions of Donald OR The Laramie Project*). You will write a production response over *Pride + Prejudice* AND the Student Production you choose to attend. Details about what to include in the critiques, criteria for evaluation and due dates will be distributed prior to the production. **Each student is responsible for stopping by the Theatre Office in the Griffith Fine Arts Building early in the semester to get a card to obtain one ticket for each of the three shows at the Box Office well in advance of the productions.**

**Participation/Short Assignments:** The participation grade consists of attending the required theatre productions during the semester, appropriate participation in course activities, regularly checking in, and adherence to class rules. Short assignments could include contribution to discussions, activities related to theatrical production roles such as a costume or set design collage, or perhaps writing a short scene. These will not be scheduled ahead of time, but will be assigned during the chapters.

**Absences:** Success in this course is dependent on your active participation and engagement throughout the course. As such, students are required to complete all assignments by the due date, and to actively participate in any class discussions. Additionally, students are expected to log on at least three times a week in order to completely weekly assignments, assessments, discussions and/or other weekly deliverables as directed by the instructor and outlined in the syllabus. Students with more than 3 absences will be penalized at the rate of 5% of their grade per absence.

**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/quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work.

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

**Course Expectations:**

*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, as well as ushers, crew members, and performers of Summer Stage. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Students are expected to dress and behave appropriately while attending theater productions. Details will be discussed in the course prior to the production.
2. Students seen to be sleeping, using cell phones or engaging in any distracting behavior during productions will earn a 0 on their production critique and participation in the course.

**Diversity**

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. Some of these materials may be offensive by contemporary standards. Their inclusion should not be interpreted as condoning discriminatory behaviors, and is intended to be engaged critically within the political and social contexts of the time in which the material was produced. Further, the expression of discriminatory remarks by students within the classroom or within submitted assignments will not be tolerated and may constitute disruptive behavior under the student code of conduct. Further, the expression of discriminatory views or language by students within the classroom or within submitted assignments can, at the discretion of the instructor, result in punitive measures, ranging from failure of a specific assignment to failure of the class and/or disciplinary action.
Academic Integrity

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/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

You are expected to be in full compliance with both the SFA policy and the School of Theatre policy: SFA policy: 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.

School of Theatre policy: The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students.

Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Please Note: I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. Hence, I will not be hovering over your shoulder during exams, etc.. However, this trust should not be confused for a lack of vigilance on my part. If you are caught, I will consider it a violation of personal trust and will not hesitate to penalize you to the full extent possible.

Additional Information

If you have a disability: 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/

Religious observance: If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.