Syllabus: Theatre Appreciation (Online)

Instructor: Dr. Inga Meier
Semester: Spring 2024
Email: meieri@sfasu.edu (Please use only this email!
Course Number: DRAM 1310
Class Meetings: This class is asynchronous and online, though it is broken into weekly modules. Modules will be released each Monday and you will be expected to meet deadlines.
Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00 pm – 3:30 PM
             Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
             Wednesdays, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
             Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:00 PM
             (Exceptions: Office hours will not be held during university holidays, dead week, or finals week.)
             Please note: outside of office hours, there is a strong chance that I may be teaching another class, prepping, grading, or conducting other work. In other words, while I may be in my office, I may not be available to meet with you outside of the times listed above. That being said, if you would like to meet, but are unavailable during the times listed above, you can email me and I will do my best to accommodate you by scheduling an appointment. If you do come to office hours and somebody is in my office ahead of you, please wait outside of my office. (If you need to meet me during office hours over zoom instead, please give me at least 24 hours notice, so I have time to set up a link.)
Office Location: Griffith 228

Some Notes on Communication:
If emailing, please use the SFA address listed above to send emails related to the course. Please include "Theatre Appreciation" somewhere in the subject line. Because it is difficult to monitor multiple email accounts at once, if you email me through D2L, there is a strong chance that I will not see the email for several days, and I will refer you back to my SFA email. Please do NOT use the D2L address. On average, I try to answer emails at least once a day. If you email me after 5:00 pm, it is likely that I may not be able to respond until the next day. If you email me on the weekend, I may not be able to respond until Monday. On average, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, and sooner in cases of emergency.
A good rule of thumb is that if you have a question /concern that can be addressed in a couple of sentences, emailing me or talking to me after class is the most effective form of communication (Before class, I typically am setting up.) For anything beyond that, office hours are the most effective form of communication.

Please Note: The syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor. Notification of changes will be made through Brightspace “News” items.
**Course Description**

This course will expose students to the art of theatre and theatrical works through reading, discussion, and required viewing of play productions. Students will synthesize and interpret their understanding of these materials through written assignments, discussion, quizzes, and an exam that will encourage the critical examination and analysis of film, across a variety of genres, in its relationship to various aspects of society and culture.

**Course Goals**

**Core Objectives**

By enrolling in DRAM 1310, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking Skills requirement. This is a core objective that is required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). This will be addressed both in your discussion questions and in your papers. The objective is described as follows:

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will:

- develop a basic understanding of dramatic literature, dramatic theory and criticism, and performance from multiple perspectives (Obj. #1)
- develop their abilities to analyze, write about, and discuss performance, both informally and through formal presentation (Obj. #1 + #2)
- 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 (Obj. #3)

**Course Materials**


The book is available at the campus Barnes and Noble in the student center. You may procure the book however you choose (campus bookstore, online, textbook rental, locally owned bookstores, sharing with a friend, etc.).

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\(^1\) Due to the fact that there are significant differences amongst editions, I strongly recommend against buying a previous edition.
Plays: You will be watching and writing about 3 plays:

- *Hamilton* (available on Disney+)
- *Spirited Away: Live on Stage* (available on Amazon Prime – Please note: this is not the anime version.)
- *Waitress: The Musical* (available on Amazon Prime – Please note: this is the musical version.)

(If you do not already have a Disney+ subscription, I recommend that you get a trial subscription and then cancel before the trial ends. The other two films are available for rental. Apart from the book, these are your only expenses regarding course materials.)

Required Technology:

Some of the course material will be delivered through the university’s Learning Management System (LMS), Brightspace. Each student is required to have access to a computer with internet capabilities in order to access the course. Each student is also required to have a working, university (sfasu.edu) email account.

As a student of Stephen F. Austin State University, you have free access to this course’s Brightspace site. You will need to access the course regularly throughout the semester. Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Brightspace, unless otherwise instructed. All other submitted files must be in Word format.

Technical Support

If at any point during the course you experience technical difficulties in Brightspace, please let your instructor know immediately.

You will also need to contact the SFASU Brightspace Support Team by email (d2l@sfasu.edu) or phone (936.468.1919) for technical help.

Academic Integrity + Student Code of Conduct

From the Student Code of Conduct:

2. Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

3. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

4. Misrepresenting facts for academic advantage to the University or an agent of the University. This includes providing false grades or resumes; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual; and
providing false or misleading information in an effort to injure another Student academically or financially.

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/her 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:** You are expected to be familiar with and able to demonstrate proper procedures for citations, following either MLA or Chicago Style guidelines, both of which are available online. Failure to cite sources is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly. Further, turning in an assignment that you have turned in elsewhere is considered self-plagiarism and will be considered a form of academic dishonesty. I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. 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 fullest extent possible. I guarantee that the penalty you may incur for a late assignment will be less than the penalty for academic dishonesty.

Additionally, as per the Student Code of Conduct, you may not engage in disruptive behavior, which is defined as “Any classroom behavior (regardless of course delivery method) that interferes with the Faculty member’s ability to conduct class, failure to conform to the Faculty member’s announced expectations for the class, or the ability of other Students to learn.” If you are found to be in violation of the student code of conduct, you may be subject to penalties.

You can read the full document here: [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

As per Texas AAUP (the American Association of University Professors), “Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that outlaws diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

As such, 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 the materials may be offensive by contemporary standards. Their inclusion should be 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.

**Religious Holidays**

The university calendar observes Christian holidays. However, I know that it is possible that you practice a different faith. Should this be the case, and should the observation of that faith require you to practice holidays other than those accommodated by the university calendar, I ask that you let me know by the end of the second full week of class, so that we can adjust your requirements accordingly.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6**

**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/.

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Course Calendar

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| Week of January 22 - January 28 | Module 1: Getting Started | • Read all “Getting Started” module content (Brightspace) by 1/26, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to “Introduce Yourself” Discussion by 4/26, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates’ posts by 4/28, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #1 by 4/28, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #1 by 4/28, 11:59 PM |
| Week of January 29 - February 4 | Module 2: Defining Theatre | • Read Pages 4-22 in TTLA by 2/2, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to “Defining Theatre” Discussion Questions by 2/2, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates’ posts by 2/4, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #2 by 2/4, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #2 by 2/4, 11:59 PM |
| Week of February 5 - February 11 | Module 3: The Audience, Theatre Etiquette, and Theatre Spaces | • Read all “The Audience, Theatre Etiquette, and Theatre Spaces” module content by 2/9, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 160-183 in TTLA by 2/9, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to “The Audience, Theatre Etiquette, and Theatre Spaces” Discussion Questions by 2/9, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates’ posts by 2/11, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #3 by 2/11, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #3 by 2/11, 11:59 PM |
| Week of February 12 - February 18 | Module 4: The Critic + Writing Reviews | • Read all “The Critic + Writing Reviews” module content by 2/16, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 40-45 in TTLA by 2/16, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to “The Critic + Writing Reviews” Discussion Questions by 2/16, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates’ posts by 2/18, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #4 by 2/18, 11:59 PM |
| Week of February 19 – February 25 | Module 5: Reading Plays + Genre | • Complete Checklist #4 by 2/18, 11:59 PM  
• Read all "Reading Plays and Genre" module content by 2/23, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 76-102 in TTIA by 2/23, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to "Reading Plays + Genre" Discussion Questions by 2/23, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 2/25, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #5 by 2/25, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #5 by 2/25, 11:59 PM |
| Week of February 26 – March 3 | Module 6: The Playwright | • Read all "The Playwright" module content by 3/1, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 46-75 in TTIA by 3/1, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to "The Playwright" Discussion Questions by 3/1 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 3/3, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #6 by 3/3, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #6 by 3/3, 11:59 PM |
| Week of March 4 – March 10 | Module 7: The Actor | • Read all "The Actor" module content by 3/8, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 104-131 in TTIA by 3/8, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to "The Actor" Discussion Questions by 3/8, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 3/10, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #7 by 3/10, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #7 by 3/10, 11:59 PM |
| Week of March 11 – March 17 | UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY | • Enjoy your break! |
| Week of March 18 – March 24 | Module 8: The Director + The Producer | • Read all "The Director + The Producer" module content by 3/22, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)  
• Read Pages 132-159 in TTIA by 3/22, 11:59 PM  
• Respond to "The Director + The Producer" Discussion Questions by 3/22, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 3/24, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Quiz #8 by 3/24, 11:59 PM  
• Complete Checklist #8 by 3/24, 11:59 PM |
<p>| Week of March 25 – March 31 | PARTIAL UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY | • &quot;Waitress&quot; Critique Due by 3/27, 11:59 PM. |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 –</td>
<td>Module 9: The Scenic Designer</td>
<td>• Read all &quot;The Scenic Designer&quot; module content by 4/5, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
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<td>• Read Pages 184-205 in TTLA by 4/5, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Respond to &quot;The Scenic Designer&quot; Discussion Questions by 4/5,</td>
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<td>11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 4/7, 11:59</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz #9 by 4/7, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Checklist #9 by 4/7, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 8 –</td>
<td>Module 10: The Costume Designer</td>
<td>• Read all &quot;The Costume Designer&quot; module content TTLA by 4/12,</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
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<td>11:59 PM (Brightspace)</td>
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<td>• Read Pages 206-228 in TTLA by 4/12, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Respond to &quot;The Costume Designer&quot; Discussion Questions by 4/12,</td>
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<td>11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 4/14, 11:59</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz #10 by 4/14, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Checklist #10 by 4/14, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• &quot;Hamilton&quot; Critique by 4/14, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 15 –</td>
<td>Module 11: The Lighting Designer + The</td>
<td>• Read all &quot;The Lighting Designer + The Sound Designer&quot; module</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Sound Designer</td>
<td>content by 4/19, 11:59 PM (Brightspace)</td>
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<td>• Read Pages 228-251 in TTLA by 4/19, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Respond to &quot;The Lighting Designer + The Sound Designer&quot; Discussion Questions by 4/19, 11:59 PM and respond to 2 of your classmates' posts by 4/21, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz #11 by 4/21, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Checklist #11 by 4/21, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 22 –</td>
<td>Module 12: The Dramaturg</td>
<td>• Read all &quot;The Dramaturg&quot; module content by 4/26, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
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<td>• Respond to &quot;The Dramaturg&quot; Discussion Questions by 4/26, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Quiz #12 by 4/28, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• Complete Checklist #12 by 4/28, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>• &quot;Spirited Away&quot; Critique due by 4/28, 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>April 29 – May</td>
<td>DEAD WEEK</td>
<td>• Please use this week to study for your exam.</td>
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<td>May 6 – May 10</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
<td>• Your final exam will be held on 5/6 on Brightspace.</td>
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