



## DRAM 1310 Introduction to Theatre

### Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

*"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."*

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| Office Hours & By Appointment | Monday        | Tuesday       | Wednesday     | Thursday      | Friday | Online |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|
|                               | 8:00-10:30 am | 8:00-9:30 am  | 8:00-10:30 am | 8:00-9:30 am  |        |        |
|                               |               | 12:30-1:30 pm |               | 12:30-1:30 pm |        |        |

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of class each week.

Survey of all phases of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to the fine arts. Participation in major productions may be required.

**Class Description:** Welcome to Introduction to Theatre! This course is designed to provide an introduction to theatre as an art form for both the major and non-major. The course will explore a wide-range of aspects of theatre as an art form and as a career. Emphasis will be placed on the collaborative role of theatre artists and the active role of audience; understanding of and access to live theatrical events and enhanced appreciation of value of theatre to society; development of critical thinking skills through consideration of representative examples of production. The course is open to all interested students and it fulfills the Visual and Performing Arts requirement at Northeast Texas Community College. Upon successful completion of this class, you should be able to identify basic theatre terminology; be knowledgeable of the major representational playwrights and their works; have a greater appreciation of all art forms and manners of artistic expression. I intend for this class to be fun! I will make every effort to create a positive, lively and friendly classroom environment. It is my hope that you will enjoy coming to class each day with the anticipation of learning about the varied and wonderful world of theatre. It is important that you understand that I want you to succeed. At the end of this class, it is my hope that you will have gained a significant respect and knowledge of theatre. In that vein, I promise to give my respect to you and to the course material.

**Required Textbook(s):** *Theatre: The Lively Art* 9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION By Wilson & Goldfarb  
**Publisher:** McGraw-Hill  
**ISBN:** 978007351430

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic theatre terminology.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major elements of a play.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major production elements of theatre, i.e. Director, Stage Manager, Designers, Actors, Technicians, etc.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of theatre management and be able to “create a season” and manage a budget.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of theatre productions as artistic expressions

**Course Objectives:**

Students will comprehend and evaluate theatre production elements and values.

Students will understand the vast variety of careers in theatre.

Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural dimensions of theatre.

It is expected that through your active participation in this class that you will:

1. Become more proficient in the assessment, development, and application of your creative abilities.
2. Be able to identify basic theatre terminology.
3. Have a basic knowledge of a variety of acting techniques.
4. Have a good foundation of knowledge regarding the lives and creative works of representative playwrights, directors, designers and theatre luminaries.
5. Have a greater appreciation for the varied and significant artistic contributions from cultures different than your experience.
6. Have a greater understanding of the vast variety of careers in theatre.
7. Be able to articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts.

**Lectures & Discussions:****Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

All assignments are graded on a point scale:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Preparation and class participation:         | 100 points |
| Two unit exams @ 100 points each:            | 200 points |
| Two play reaction papers @100 pointseach:    | 200 points |
| Theatre Presentation:                        | 100 points |
| Theatre Management presentation:             | 100 points |
| Group exercise of “Mock” Production Meeting: | 100 points |
| “Creative” presentation:                     | 200 points |

## **Assignments:**

The assignments include the following:

1. Taking exams (2) covering theatre terminology, the elements of a play, production staff positions and duties, genres of theatre, representative playwrights and plays.
2. Oral presentation in class discussing research into a selected element in theatre (artist, play/musical, historical period). The presentation will be 7 to 10 minutes and will be augmented with power point. A written summary and work cited notation will be submitted.
3. Oral presentation covering theatre management. The presentation will be 5 to 7 minutes and will utilize power point and/or other visual elements.
4. Small group exercise demonstrating a "Mock" theatre production staff meeting.
5. Viewing all Theatre Northeast productions and writing 4 to 6 page reaction papers.
6. The final assignment for the class will be a "creative presentation" demonstrating some facet of theatre; for instance: acting a monologue, writing a poem or a monologue, playing a musical instrument, performing expressive dancing, photography, designing scenery, costumes, lighting, make up or props, etc.

### **Grading Scale:**

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| A | 90%-100% | (Exceptional Quality Work)                                 |
| B | 80%-89%  | (Above Average Quality Work)                               |
| C | 70%-79%  | (Average Quality Work)                                     |
| D | 60%-69%  | (Below Average Quality Work)                               |
| F | (0%-59%) | (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work) |

## **Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

### **Class Attendance:**

It is expected that you will attend this class on a regular basis. Because the majority of the lecture information in this class is derived from a variety of sources it is very important that you attend class in order to get notes. I realize that emergencies may arise, or you may have conflicts for some of the scheduled classes. In those cases, it is strongly suggested that you contact me as soon as possible in order to "catch up" on your class work. Under normal circumstances, the formal attendance policy for this class is as follows: You are allowed two emergency absences during the semester without overall grading penalty. Upon the third absence, 3 points will be deducted from the student's final grade in the course; upon each additional absence the student's final grade will be deducted 3 more points. Due to the daily interactive nature of the course, upon the sixth absence the student may be automatically: 1) dropped from the course or 2) fail the course (depending on the point of the semester). Please keep up with your absences in this course. This is your responsibility. Anyone who wishes to withdraw from the class must take the responsibility

to formally drop by the designated date with the Office of Admissions.

**Late Arrivals/Early Departures:**

Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. This class will begin promptly at 9:30 am! If you arrive after 9:45 am you will be marked absent. Two documented "tardies" will result in one absence.

**Late Work:**

Late written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade for each class period after the assignment is due. All written assignments are posted on the class calendar and in Blackboard.

**Extra Credit:**

There are opportunities for "extra" credit during the semester. During the final review for an exam, we will have a "Review Game" which will allow you to garner extra credit. All extra credit will be initiated by me. Please do not ask. In the circumstance that an opportunity for extra credit arises, this will be announced to the entire class.

Adaption of Assignments: Due to the fluid nature of this class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

**Contacting the Instructor:**

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, let me know. Please don't be intimidated. Let's communicate with each other. The easiest and most reliable way to communicate with me is via email. I check it each morning when I arrive, during office hours and each end of the day.

**Other Important Information:**

1. When you are in the theatre, you must follow all safety precautions. The safety of our students in a learning environment such as our theatre are of the greatest Importance.
2. The Whatley Theatre is our home. I encourage you to feel at home and think of Theatre Northeast as a safe harbor--or perhaps an oasis in the desert. However, in our home, it is expected that you clean up after yourselves. Anything that you bring into the theatre must be disposed of properly after class or rehearsal. I might add that if you take pride in our home, it might even be a good thing to pick up after others who do not share the respect that you have for our home.
3. Theatre, by its' nature, is a very diverse and eclectic merging of personalities, cultures and life styles. I encourage you to embrace the wonderful diversity that is inherent

within the study and stagecraft of theatre. I have the expectation that you will treat each individual with respect and professionalism. Strive to "honor the art within yourselves." Although the class is about "drama," I strongly suggest that you leave your personal "drama" outside of the classroom. You may have the expectation that I will always treat you with respect and professionalism.

4. If you miss an examination, you must make arrangements to take the make-up exam before you attend the next scheduled class time. All missed exams will be administered in the College Testing Center located in B.T. 101.

**NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:**

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

**Academic Ethics:**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

- Please- No Texting. Maintain focus in the classroom by turning off all cell phones and any disruptive electronics, and do not bring food into the classroom.**
- The workspace is a “safe zone” – there are no poor answers or poor questions.**
- Everyone participates, no one dominates**
- Help the instructor and each other stay on task**
- Keep decorum by arriving on time, and staying through the class time**
- Speak one at a time, and don’t interrupt**
- Be an active listener, and an objective listener**
- Give freely of your own experience**
- Keep an open mind and agree or disagree only if it makes sense**
- Ask lots of questions**
- Have FUN!**