Theatre Appreciation
THR 161.501 Spring 2016

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Office hours: By phone or email
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", "Oedipus Rex" (online), "The Importance of Being Earnest," "Clyborne Park"

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 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.

<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 Critique</td>
<td></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 Critique and Group Project</td>
<td></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>
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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>Group Project</td>
<td></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>
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<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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**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

**Attendance Policy:** Even though this is an online class, in order to be successful, it is necessary to attend at least twice a week as if it were a face to face class. All assignments are on a weekly basis and if you check in at least twice a week then you can easily keep up with the work. I will check that each of you have entered the course each week and your participation grade will be affected if you have not. I will also contact you if I see that you have not been attending regularly. Please keep me up to date if things occur in your life that may hinder this.

**Course Requirements:**

**Play Critiques:** You will be required to attend three SFA productions this semester. You will write a critique on the first mainstage production and one downstage. These critiques should contain your impressions of the performance in regards to acting, directing, scripts, and design elements. **Your critiques are due the week after the show closes.** You will receive a card, which you must pick up from the theatre office, this entitles you to see the shows free of charge, guests must pay regular admission price. You must present your pass to the box office during regular hours prior to the performance to receive your ticket (seats are reserved.) You will take a mainstage quiz on the second mainstage production. You are required to see both mainstage productions and one downstage of your choosing.
SFA Mainstage production:
Clybome Park - Tue., Feb. 23—Sat., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Festival of New American Plays - Tue., April 26—Sat. through April 30, 7:30 p.m., April 30 at 2:00pm

Public Downstage productions:
Lovely Head by Neil LaBute - Fri., Feb. 19 and 20, 7:30pm, 2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 20.
A Dollar by David Pinski - Fri., March 4, 7:30 p.m. Sat., March 5, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
The Lover by Harold Pinter - Fri., April 8, 7:30 p.m. Sat., April 9, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Play Critiques:

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 performance. 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.

1. Briefly summarize the plot in a few well-planned sentences.
2. Determine the central image/concept of the production 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. why do you think this play was done at SFA? do you think the intent of the production came across?

To write a college level paper, each paragraph must have at least 10 sentences or more. Please use spell and grammar check. These will be graded as well as content.

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 four quizzes.

Play Reading Journal: While reading A Raisin in the Sun, students will complete five assigned Discussion entries. The topics of these entries relate to cultural, social and community issues in the play. Details about the posts, its format, content and grading will be discussed later in the class.

Group Project: Early in the semester, students will need to watch a film version of A Raisin in the Sun. After watching, students will divide into groups and be assigned a topic related to elements of theatre, components of play analysis, and historical and social relevance. Each student in the group will choose a different technical element to discuss and record. Groups will prepare and present an oral presentation related to their topics. Criteria for evaluation will be discussed further in class. In addition to giving students an opportunity to develop oral presentation skills, this project will assist the students in preparing to write their individual
written production critiques. Projects will be presented in class on assigned days. All group members are required to be present and active in the presentation and complete a teamwork component feedback form. This will be sent in video form as an attachment.

**Research Projects:** You will create an online presentation and paper focusing on any subject in theatre pertaining to this class. Your project will demonstrate an understanding of the material and its relationship to the society of its time. You 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. It must be presented in a creative manner other than a report format. Your project must be a balance of information and visual aids. You will turn in a two page summary of your research and subject along with a work cited page. These are separate from your presentation. This project can be done in a power point fashion or a video or any other creative way you can think of to present online. It must be submitted in the assignment course tool.

**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 @ 125 = 375
2 papers @ 100 = 200
1 Project @ 200 = 200
Play Quizzes 4 @ 25 and livetext = 125
Mainstage Quiz @ 50 = 50
Assignments/Chats/Discussions @ 5 = 1000