



Course Syllabus: **Appreciation of Theatre**
College of Fine Arts
THEA 1503 Section 201
Spring 2021, TR 9:30-10:50am

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Sally Story

Office: B106

Virtual office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 11:30am-1:00pm and by appointment.

Office phone: (940) 397-4908

E-mail: sally.story@msutexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Analysis of the theatre experience, especially from the viewpoint of the spectators. Aesthetic principles involved in all phases of the theatrical art. The development of this art by mankind.

REQUIRED TEXT:

The Theater Experience, Twelfth Edition by Edwin Wilson

ISBN-13: 978-0073382197

ISBN-10: 0073382191

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will assist you in developing and demonstrating:

1. An understanding of the various movements within the history of theatre. [Department learning outcome: Knowledge of the development of theatre]
2. Proper use of theatrical vocabulary. [Department learning outcomes: Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application, and employability]
3. A firm knowledge of the roles of the various artisans as well as the role of the spectator. [Department learning outcomes: Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application, and professionalism]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To succeed in this course you will need to ensure the following requirements are met, daily.

1. Daily participation in all activities. Foundational information is given and explained in class and then built upon over the semester. Absences will cause many issues as you move forward in this course.
2. Completion of the assigned projects on the due date. Incomplete assignments will be graded as such and could be grounds for major point loss. Late assignments will not be accepted unless under extreme circumstances (see Attendance Policy).

3. When submitting work to D2L, all work **MUST** be typed, printed, stapled, spell-checked, and grammar checked prior to the beginning of class.
4. Check D2L for correspondences and class materials. If I need to cancel class, Banner and/or D2L will be used to inform you of the situation.
5. If you need to email me, please email me directly at the above email address.

INSTRUCTION MODALITIES:

Due to COVID-19, the class will be taught both in-person and online to accommodate vulnerable individuals. Instructions will be provided in class and via email.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

COVID-19 UPDATES:

For any campus updates regarding COVID-19, please go to <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/>.

MSU SAFETY APP:

I strongly encourage you all to take your temperature and check in with the MSU Safety App daily. When you open the app, click on "COVID-19 Updates Self-Assessment Tool & Reporting Portals" and then take the "Self-Assessment Form" to make sure you are staying healthy. If you have questions, please let me know.

MSU TEXAS FACIAL COVERING REQUIREMENT:

Effective July 6, 2020, all members of the MSU Texas Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors, and contractors) are required to wear protective face coverings on campus or in University facilities as provided below:

- A. In common areas on campus including, but not limited to, classrooms and other spaces used for teaching, research, and creative activity, student center, library, hallways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, break rooms, foyers, event rooms, and lobbies;
- B. Other areas where physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained. Even when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained, face coverings are strongly recommended.

SEATING CHART:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the seat you choose the first day of class will be your seat for the remainder of the semester.

CLEANING:

Please try and arrive to class five minutes early. When you arrive, you will clean your area thoroughly. Cleaning products are provided in class for your use.

CLASS DISMISSAL:

Class will be dismissed five minutes early and by rows. The students in the front row closest to the exit will be dismissed (after they clean their area) first, then the second row, and so on. We want to ensure maximum safety and social distancing.

EXPECTATIONS IN THE CLASS:

The class involves lectures, participation in classroom discussions, attending one (1) theatre production and writing one (1) response paper, three (3) exams, potential pop quizzes, and the Final Exam Project. In order to be a quality participant in class, you must READ THE CHAPTER ASSIGNED BEFORE COMING TO CLASS. (A calendar for this course is included in this syllabus.) You are expected to be an active and positive presence in class discussions. If I start to notice that class participation is lacking, the class will be given an impromptu quiz on the chapter.

OFFICE HOURS:

Please see above for my specific office hours. When you want to make an appointment, please go to <https://msutexas-sallyshirinstory.youcanbook.me>. I will then email you via D2L with a Zoom link. If you need to meet with me in person, arrangements can be made to accommodate your request.

CONDUCT STATEMENT:

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS:

PLEASE remember to turn off (or to SILENT, not vibrate) your mobile phones before class begins. It is completely disrespectful of the class if your mobile phone rings/vibrates and/or you are using it to text message during class, and it will not be tolerated. If your phone rings/vibrates and/or you are text messaging in class after the first two weeks of the semester, you will be asked to leave the room. If your leaving would disrupt class (e.g., there is a guest presenter, etc.), you may not be asked to leave. Either way, the incident will be marked as an absence. Also, there is no food allowed in class. Again, you are expected to be an active and positive presence in class.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES:

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE:

Because most of the important learning for this course occurs in class, it is essential that you be PRESENT AND ON TIME. Roll will be taken every class period. You are allowed two (2) days of absences, if necessary. **With your third absence, your FINAL GRADE will be lowered by half a letter grade. With each subsequent absence, your FINAL GRADE will continue to be lowered by half a letter grade.** If at any time excessive absenteeism (over five [5] absences total) is adversely affecting the work of others or your own work, you will be dropped and subsequently, failed from the course. Further, it is your responsibility to know what happened in class on any day you are absent and to be prepared for work on the day you return. If you have an absence on a day paperwork is due, you will NOT be allowed to make up any paperwork, and will fail that assignment.

However, if you have any planned excused absences (e.g., a school obligation), the paperwork must be handed in BEFORE the day it is due. If you have an absence due to a "special circumstance" (only applies to extreme circumstances, illness, or a family emergency), arrangements need to be made with me IMMEDIATELY in regards to making up the work.

If you are feeling ill, please do not come to class. Go to the doctor immediately. If you provide me with a doctor's note (via email), the absence will be excused. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, please let me know via email as soon as possible. This information will be used for community tracking only, not to assign blame. All COVID-19-related absences will be excused.

TARDINESS POLICY:

Please note: two (2) tardies (less than ten [10] minutes late) equal one (1) absence. If you are more than ten (10) minutes late, you will be marked absent.

DESIRE-TO-LEARN (D2L):

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL IS LINKED WITH YOUR D2L SO YOU GET NOTIFICATIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

PAPERWORK:

All paperwork will be handed in via D2L. I will not accept hard copies.

EXAMS:

All exams will be online. There are a total of three (3) exams based on the reading assignments/classroom discussions. The exams are open book, but there is an imposed time limit; however, if you have a disability that prevents you from finishing the exam in the time allotted, please see me privately as soon as possible.

MAKE UP WORK/EXAMS:

Only under extreme circumstances do I allow make-up work/exams. If there is a school-related activity or family emergency (in which you will have to provide written proof), will you be allowed to miss an exam.

STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY & PROCEDURES

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

OTHER IMPORTANT MSU POLICIES:

Student Privacy Statement: Federal law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents.

Campus Carry Statement: Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effect August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/>.

Submission Format Policy: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of the instructor in advance.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will **not be tolerated**, whether intentional or not.

Student Honor Creed: *As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.*

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception. Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment

to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student. We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed. Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>.

Safe Zone Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor: All instructors in the Department have voicemail in their offices and MSU e-mail addresses. Make sure you add your instructor's phone number and e-mail address to both email and cell phone lists of contacts.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they've 1) passed English 1113 and English 1123 and 2) earned 60 hours, but no more than 90 hours. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/>, or call 940-397-4131.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy: Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy: To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

DESIRE-TO-LEARN (D2L):

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL IS LINKED WITH YOUR D2L SO YOU GET NOTIFICATIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW PAPERS:

You will be required to write **one (1)** paper based on your response to the production you will be seeing. Electronic copies of papers are due to D2L on the TUESDAY after a production's full performance run. All papers must be a **minimum of three (3) pages (maximum of five [5])** in length using one-inch margins, double-spaced in 12-point type Times New Roman or equivalent. They must be typewritten – **handwritten papers will not be accepted**. Please note **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** (this includes e-mailing them outside of class to me). If your paper does not follow the above format, I will give you a failing grade, so please make sure you follow the rules above.

Please use the following guidelines in writing your paper:

- In the initial paragraph, describe your overall response to the play. Did it have an impact on you? How did it impact you? (For example: Did it make you think about an interesting or new idea, did it remind you of something personal, was it artistically interesting, did it entertain you, or make you laugh or cry? Why?)
PLEASE, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO GIVE ME A PLOT SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTION.
- Your THESIS statement is the LAST sentence of the FIRST or SECOND paragraph. It is the all-encompassing sentence; it is what your paper is truly about. (For example, " *The Miser* and all its theatrical elements gave me a greater appreciation for Molière and his time period.")
- The rest of your paper needs to support your thesis statement. You should address the following elements: acting (What did you think?), directing style (Did you think the movement or blocking on stage was smooth? Did it tell the story properly?), writing (What was the playwright trying to tell his/her audience?), and the play itself (What do YOU think the play is about?). Basically, you should incorporate all of the aforementioned collaborative aspects that go into a

production to support your thesis statement. In essence, did you feel there was a collaborative unity to the production?

All papers are expected to conform to the proper usage of the English language, including attention to spelling, grammar, complete sentences, and logical paragraph construction.

PRODUCTION:

You will see one MSU production (*Tartuffe*) this semester. You will be required to write **one (1)** paper based on your response. Please purchase your tickets via phone or online as the show has limited seating. Tickets may be bought at <https://msufineartstickets.universitytickets.com/>. Seating is limited to 90 patrons due to social distancing!!!

Tartuffe by Molière

Fain Fine Arts Mainstage

Friday, March 5th and Saturday, March 6th at 7:30pm

Written Response due to D2L: Tuesday, March 9th BEFORE class.

Please use the Corq App to check into the event so we can track your attendance.

REQUIRED FINAL EXAM PROJECTS:

Produce a One-Act Virtual Play. You will be assigned to groups of three or four, depending on our class size. A preliminary discussion with me is required before beginning your project. You will choose from a selection of plays I will provide; no group can do the same play.

Everyone must have an ACTIVE role in the final exam project; s/he may be a casting director, costume designer, or set/props designer. ALL of those involved must complete a virtual production meeting log for EACH and EVERY virtual production meeting s/he attended, and submit them via D2L. The Virtual Production Meeting Log Template will also be posted to D2L. Please follow it exactly. Depending on your position, you will HAVE to submit different materials. For example, the casting director will have to submit three (3) top actor choices for each character and their reasoning behind those choices. For the designers, they will have to submit colored renderings/pictures of their designs, as well as research they had to do for the project. Please cite all sources in a bibliography using MLA format.

Virtual production meetings should meet outside of class. Please remember, THIS IS YOUR FINAL EXAM. In the past, students have made the mistake of not taking this assignment seriously. Unfortunately, their grades reflected as such. **Paperwork for your Final Exam Project is due Wednesday, April 28th by 5:45pm to D2L.**

VIRTUAL PRODUCTION MEETING LOG TEMPLATE:

Date of Production Meeting:

Time Started:

Time Ended:

Location:

Who Was Present: Casting Director/Designers

What Was Accomplished: This should entail a list of things you did with your group members and/or for the production during the production meeting.

Notes: Much like a journal entry, the notes should entail your personal feelings/thoughts about what was accomplished during the rehearsal **in detail**. These notes can also include any potential challenges you might have faced during the meeting and how you met them, as well as plans you have for future meetings. This section should be LENGTHY in its information. Writing less than two (2) full paragraphs is completely unacceptable.

All production meeting logs MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN and FOLLOW THE TEMPLATE ABOVE EXACTLY!!!

GRADING:

Your final grade will be broken down in the following way:

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Points
Attendance/Class Participation	200
Exams (100 points each)	300
Performance Review Paper	100
Final Exam Project	400
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900 to 1000
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

MSU ACADEMIC CALENDAR - IMPORTANT DATES:

Last day for term schedule changes: January 11th-13th.

Deadline to file for graduation: February 15th.

Last day to drop with a grade of "W", 4:00pm: April 23rd. Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

NOTICE:

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and calendar may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE CALENDAR

Again, changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and calendar may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Date	Activities	Assignments Due
Tuesday, 1/12	NO CLASS.	
Thursday, 1/14	Syllabus review. Answer questions about course. Discussion of personal theatrical experience as audience members and/or participants.	Please read Wilson's Chapter 1 on pp. 2-21.
Tuesday, 1/19	Discussion of global theatre (Wilson's Chapter 1 on pp. 2-21).	Read Wilson's Chapter 2 on pp. 22-43.
Thursday, 1/21	Discussion of the audience's role in theatre and its use of the imagination (Wilson's Part 1/Chapter 2 on pp. 22-43).	Read Wilson's Chapter 3 on pp. 44-57.
Tuesday, 1/26	Discussion of background and expectations of the audience (Wilson's Chapter 3 on pp. 44-57).	Read Wilson's Chapter 3 on pp. 57-65.
Thursday, 1/28	Discussion of the critic and the audience (Wilson's Chapter 3 on pp. 57-65).	Review for Wilson Exam #1 (Chapter 1 through Chapter 3) on Tuesday, February 2 nd .
Tuesday, 2/2	Wilson Exam #1 Review.	Please take Wilson Exam #1 on D2L by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 4 th !
Thursday, 2/4	NO CLASS. Please take Wilson Exam #1 on D2L by 5:00pm!	Read Wilson's Chapter 4 on pp. 66-87.
Tuesday, 2/9	Discussion of stage spaces (Wilson's Chapter 4 on pp. 66-87).	Read Wilson's Chapter 5 (pp. 88-108).

Date	Activities	Assignments Due
Thursday, 2/11	Discussion of performers and directors, as well as acting offstage and in the past (Wilson's Part 2/Chapter 5 on pp. 88-108).	Read Wilson's Chapter 5 (pp. 108-121).
Tuesday, 2/16	Discussion of stage acting today (Wilson's Chapter 5 on pp. 108-121).	Read Wilson's Chapter 6 (pp. 122-149).
Thursday, 2/18	Discussion of the roles of director and producer (Wilson's Chapter 6 on pp. 122-149).	Read Wilson's Chapter 7 (pp. 150-169).
Tuesday, 2/23	Discussion of the role of the playwright and how s/he creates the world of the play (Wilson's Part 3/Chapter 7 on pp. 150-169).	
Thursday, 2/25	Discussion about Final Exam Projects.	Review for Wilson Exam #2 (Chapter 4 through Chapter 7) on Tuesday, March 2 nd .
Tuesday, 3/2	Wilson Exam #2 Review.	<p>Please take Wilson Exam #2 on D2L by 5:00pm on Thursday, March 4th!</p> <p>Reminder: <i>Tartuffe</i> Fain Fine Arts Center Friday, March 5th and Saturday, March 6th at 7:30pm</p> <p>Performance Review Paper due to D2L: Tuesday, March 9th BEFORE class.</p>
Thursday, 3/4	Please take Wilson Exam #2 on D2L by 5:00pm!	Reminder: <i>Tartuffe</i> Fain Fine Arts Center

Date	Activities	Assignments Due
		<p>Friday, March 5th and Saturday, March 6th at 7:30pm</p> <p>Performance Review Paper due to D2L: Tuesday, March 9th BEFORE class.</p> <p>Final Exam Projects' play choices due on Tuesday, March 16th.</p>
Tuesday, 3/9	Discussion of <i>Tartuffe</i> .	<p>Read Wilson's Chapter 8 (pp. 170-195).</p> <p>Final Exam Projects' play choices due on Tuesday, March 16th.</p>
Thursday, 3/11	Discussion of dramatic structures: climatic, episodic, and others, as well as dramatic characters (Wilson's Chapter 8 on pp. 170-195).	<p>Read Wilson's Chapter 9 (pp. 196-223).</p> <p>Final Exam Projects' play choices due on Tuesday, March 16th.</p>
Tuesday, 3/16	<p>Final Exam Projects' play choices due!</p> <p>Discussion of tragedy and other similar forms, as well as comedy/tragicomedy and branches of the forms (Wilson's Chapter 9 on pp. 196-223).</p>	Read Wilson's Chapter 10 (pp. 228-251).
Thursday, 3/18	<p>Discussion of Final Exam Project.</p> <p>Discussion of scenery (Wilson's Chapter 10 on pp. 228-251).</p>	Read Wilson's Chapter 11 (pp. 252-275).

Date	Activities	Assignments Due
Tuesday, 3/23	Discussion of stage costumes (Wilson's Chapter 11 on pp. 252-275).	Read Wilson's Chapter 12 (pp. 276-295).
Thursday, 3/25	Discussion of lighting and sound (Wilson's Chapter 12 on pp. 276-295).	Review for Wilson Exam #3 (Chapter 8 through Chapter 12) on Tuesday, March 30 th .
Tuesday, 3/30	Wilson Exam #3 Review.	Please take Wilson Exam #3 on D2L by 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 6 th !
Thursday, 3/31-4/4	NO CLASS! Holiday Break!	Please take Wilson Exam #3 on D2L by 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 6 th !
Tuesday, 4/6	NO CLASS! Please take Wilson Exam #3 on D2L by 5:00pm!	Read Wilson's Chapter 13 (pp. 296-317).
Thursday, 4/8	Discussion of musical theatre (Wilson's Chapter 13 on pp. 296-317.)	
Tuesday, 4/13	Continued discussion of musical theatre (Wilson's Chapter 13 on pp. 296-317.)	
Thursday, 4/15	Prepare for Final Exam Project in class.	Final Exam Project Paperwork due to D2L by 8:00am on Tuesday, April 27 th .
Tuesday, 4/20	Prepare for Final Exam Project in class.	Final Exam Project Paperwork due to D2L by 8:00am on Tuesday, April 27 th .
Tuesday, 4/22	Prepare for Final Exam Project in class.	Final Exam Project Paperwork due to D2L by 8:00am on Tuesday, April 27 th .

Date	Activities	Assignments Due
Tuesday, 4/27	Final Exam Project Paperwork due to D2L by 8:00am!!!	