



Course Syllabus: Appreciation of Theatre
Fain College of Fine Arts
THEA 1503 Section 101
Fall 2024

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course is intended to enable the student to appreciate and analyze creative work in theatre and related products of the human imagination through a study of the art, craft and business of the theatre. In order to do this, the class will engage in class discussions, writing assignments (the online discussions and production critiques), pop quizzes, tests and both in-class and out-of-class assignments.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

The Enjoyment of Theatre 9th edition by Patterson, Hunter, Gillespie and Cameron

Dependable internet access

Access to D2L

In addition to our regular classroom activities, you are **required** to attend one performance of two productions and write a critical response for each production. Beginning September 1, you will be able to reserve your ticket online at the MSU theatre ticket site, accessible from our homepage. You will receive one free ticket for each production (not each performance) with your student id. **If you are unable to attend at least one performance of each production, drop this class now!** Dates and times are listed below.

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play October 10-12 7:30 pm and October 13 2:30 pm
The Thanksgiving Play November 21-23 7:30 pm and November 17 2:30 pm

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given).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

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Use of ChatGPT or any other AI in the creation of any work for this class will be treated a plagiarism.

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1:

Assignments	Points
Quizzes	100
Design Project	50
Playwritiing Project	50
Production Project	60
Test #1	100
Test #2	100
<i>Mr. Burns</i> production critique	100
<i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> production critique	100
Online discussions	140
Final Exam	150
Total Points	1000

Table 2:

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

Homework

You are expected to do the assignments when they are assigned. Failure to do so will result in an inability to keep pace with the class. All graded assignments should be submitted on or before the deadline. All written assignments **MUST** be typed. Handwritten work will **NOT** be accepted. **Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due on D2L no later than 10:59 am on the due date. All work submitted on D2L must be in either Microsoft Word.**

The professor does not accept emailed assignments.

Quizzes

The professor reserves the right to give pop quizzes at any time.

There are regularly scheduled quizzes on D2L. These quizzes always open 48 hours before the due date. All quizzes are due by the time listed or by 10:59 am on the day indicated.

Quizzes are part of the learning experience. As such, online quizzes are open book/notes. There will be 10 questions in each quiz chosen from a larger question pool. Students are encouraged to retake the quiz until they are happy with their grade. Due to the number of potential questions, it is unlikely that additional attempts will have exactly the same questions as the previous attempt(s). Quizzes will have a strict 10 minute limit per attempt.

Exams

There are two tests and a final exam in this course. Each test/exam will include essay questions and an objective portion of the test/exam. The essay questions will be on the review sheet and will be prepared by the student outside of class and submitted on D2L prior to the start of the test/exam. Since the essays will be prepared in advance, points will be taken off for grammatical and spelling errors, in addition to any for failing to answer the question appropriately. Additional details of the tests/exam will be discussed in class

Projects Required

There are three major projects in this class: a Design Project, a Playwriting Project and a Production Project. Each project will be discussed in detail in class and the expectations provided in writing. The handout with the details will be handed out in class and posted on D2L.

On-line Discussions

There will be regular (almost weekly) D2L discussions. The question/topic will be provided by the Sunday at 5:00 pm prior to the due date. The due dates are specified on the class schedule. Unless otherwise specified, the discussions are due by 10:59am on the due date.

In order to receive full points for each discussion (10 points), each student should answer the prompt/question (minimum of 50 words) and respond to two other comments (minimum of 30 words).

Final Exam

Final exam details should be provided. Include point values or percentage of the overall grade, method of assessment, whether or not it will be timed, and date for the final. This will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be given.

Late Work

Work is due by the date and time listed. I do not accept late work.

Make-up Work/Tests

Tests and project due dates are hard and fast. There are exceptions but no exception will be given unless the student notifies the professor **prior** to the start of class.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29, 2024

Deadline to file for graduation: September 23, 2024

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 25, 2024

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

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.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. Since lectures expand on assignments, missing class means missing important information. This class is, by its nature, participatory. Missing class means missing the chance to participate in your own education and the education of others in the class. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the class. The professor reserves the right to disallow counting a student present who is extremely late. The professor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class requirements, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct.

If you skip class and miss a quiz or graded exercise, it cannot be made up. If you miss class due to illness, you can make it up as long as you **call/text/email before class**. Athletes know when their travel days are in advance of the date so any items due while the athlete is travelling for athletics need to be completed prior to the athlete leaving. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a 0 for that work.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Many of us own and use cell phones as our major method of electronic communication. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones when entering the classroom. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered during class. Should the student need to take an emergency call, the professor expects the student to leave the room and not return, minimizing the disruptions for the remaining students. Before class begins, ensure that cell phones are off or are disabled so the phone does not ring during class – better yet, do not bring your phone to class. If other commitments are so pressing that they cannot wait until the end of the class session, it may be in the student's best interests to reconsider the priority being placed on being in this class. TEXTING and SLEEPING will not be tolerated.

In this class, we will be exposed to a variety of playscripts. Some of these plays may confront you about ideas and beliefs that you have long held. That is the nature of art. If you open your mind to the new experiences, you may find yourself exposed to new paradigms that will enlighten you. Social justice is one of MSU's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment. Be civil at all times and focus on understanding the material being discussed. As we discuss theatre, let us do so in a non-confrontational way. A university is a place in which we are each encouraged to grow to our ultimate potential – disparaging comments or words intended to harm others (as a group or individual) are inappropriate in the twenty-first century and will not be tolerated in this classroom. Please consider this carefully. If you are easily offended, particularly by discussing things with which you do not agree morally

or philosophically, this class may not be for you. The appropriate time to withdraw is now.

Students are expected to take handwritten notes during every class and bring the previous days' notes to class. The professor will periodically ask to see the notes. Failure to have the classnotes or to have an unexcused absence on the day the notes are requested will result in receiving a 0 for that grade. These grades will factor into the Participation grade with attendance.

I very much want to hear your well considered thoughts and opinions and to answer your questions. This course is most effective when the overall spirit is one of collaboration – just like theatre!

Computer use during class is strictly banned. Every study on the subject shows that the process of writing, not typing, helps us retain the information.

No food is allowed in the classroom for any reason.

You may not bring any beverage other than water into the classroom. If you bring water, it must be in a sports top bottle.

YOU MUST BRING THE TEXT TO CLASS EVERYDAY.

In short: Be on time. Be awake. Be prepared. Be engaged. Ask questions. Study. Come ready to be a scholar or stay home.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for 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 an 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 [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

The Texas Concealed Carry Law requires that the weapon be on the person/within immediate reach. Please realize that at times students in this class will be asked to leave their seats in order to participate. Please ensure that you are following the law to the letter.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU Texas. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

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 prohibit 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch

the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Performance Etiquette

1. **BE ON TIME!** We will discuss what "on time" means.
2. When attending a public performance, it is both rude and disruptive to use an electronic device of any kind, talk excessively, or create any other kind of disturbance that distracts or interferes with audience members or performers.
3. Ushers and other faculty members regularly attend these performances. If a faculty member or usher reports to me that you, by name, were observed using an electronic device or engaged in disruptive behavior, you will receive a zero for the performance critique.
4. No food or beverages are allowed in the theatre.
5. No photography of any kind.
6. No matter how tempting, do not take notes during the performance.
7. Dress: Upscale casual to dressy. The idea is not to look sloppy as this shows a lack of respect to the artists.