

Theatre Appreciation



DRAM-1310-001

Fall 16 Week 2026 Online 8/24/2026 - 12/10/2026

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Office Hours

- See Blackboard
- Virtual Office Hours
 - My student virtual drop-in hours are by appointment in our classroom zoom room.
 - Send me a Course Message and we will set up a time that works for us both.

Building/Room: C. DeVitt Fine Arts Center, 103 Lecture

Days/Time: T/Th 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Course Description

Survey of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures and relation to other art forms. Participation in productions may be required.

Instructional Materials

- On-Campus/School Computer or Personal Computer
 - Even though the Blackboard Mobile app and website work decently well:
 - Some assignments work better with a desktop or laptop computer.
- Crash Course (Edpuzzle & Youtube)
- Notebook or other note taking supplies
- Other Streaming abilities (You should not have to pay for any service, but you can.)
- No textbook

Program Learning Outcomes

- Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis

of information

- Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze theater through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theater history and dramatic works.
- Describe the collaborative nature of theater arts.
- Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.

COURSE POLICIES

SUCCESSFUL "ATTENDANCE"

- Attendance is Mandatory.
- Attendance counts for 10% of your grade.
 - After 2 absences your advisor will be contacted and steps will be taken for your success.
 - All school related absences are excused with proper documentation.
- Stay up to date with your Blackboard Announcements, Forums, Emails and Weekly Assignments.
- If no work has been submitted by the census date, the student will be submitted as a "No Show" / FX for the course.
- If no work has been turn in for 2 consecutive weeks, the student will automatically receive a grade of FX (Failure due to excessive Absences) in the course- this equates to an F.

LATE WORK / MAKEUP WORK

- A PLAN FOR SUCCESS must be made before makeup work will be accepted.
- ***Work will not be accepted after 1 week past the due date.***
- There is a 30% deduction from the final grade per assignment.
- LATE IS BETTER THAN A "0".
- ***FINAL will NOT be accepted late.***
 - The Final Week's due date may NOT fall on a Thursday.
 - Pay attention to the written due date.

TARDINESS:

- Being late is disruptive to the class and disrespectful to your classmates and your instructor.
 - 10 min after start time = Late
 - 3 tardies = 1 Absence

EXTENSION:

- Any extension must be requested and responded to by me IN WRITING 24 hours BEFORE the

due time.

- If not requested and approved, a late penalty will be assessed.

RESPECT IN THE CLASSROOM:

- Respect in the classroom is essential.
- Abusive language, CELL PHONES, personal attacks or disturbances will not be tolerated.
- Talking about sensitive information shared by the instructor and/or peers within discussions outside of classroom, will result in removal from class.
- If you need to leave early, please sit close to the exit and notify the instructor, before class.

CONTENT:

- In this class you may be exposed to; strong language-graphic onscreen material- controversial ideas and points of view that may be at variance with your belief set.
 - Just keep repeating-it's only a movie/play.
- I do try my best to choose content that is appropriate for all.

CELLPHONE POLICY

- Phones are to be only used for CLASS WORK. Your phone and your computer (if you have one available) will be very important to your course success. We are here to participate in class and when our dependence/distraction with our phones gets in the way of this it can be detrimental to your grade and the educational success of others.
- Students are asked to place their phone on the corner of their desk.
- There will be 1 warning if the phone is being used improperly.
 - If the improper use continues the student is seen to not be actively participating in class and will be asked to leave the class.
 - An absence will be assessed.

SLEEPING IN CLASS:

- If you are "napping" I'll ask you to leave-one absence.
 - Stand up. Walk around.

Dismissal Policy:

- A high standard of conduct is expected of all students.
 - It is assumed that obedience to the law, respect for property, integrity, and common sense will guide the actions of each member of the class.
 - If in the opinion of the instructor the conduct of a student is unacceptable, the student will be asked to leave the class or lab, counted absent, and not be allowed to re-enter without written permission from both the Dean of Students and the Dean of Instruction.
 - In a case of severe misconduct, the instructor may request the dismissal of the student from class permanently.

Plagiarism:

- All written material must be the student's original ideas unless specifically indicated otherwise.
 - Quotation marks should be used when the exact words of a person, a textbook, an article, or a webpage are used, and proper MLA credit should be given to that source.
 - Failure to do so is one form of plagiarism.
- Students should also remember that using quoted, paraphrased or summarized ideas or information from a person, written source, or online source without giving the source credit is also plagiarism.
- Students may not turn in duplicate work or work that expresses the same ideas in the same manner, which is also plagiarism.
- Students may not submit work that has been or will be turned in for another course.
- ALL FORMS OF PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN THE OFFENDING STUDENT RECEIVING AN AUTOMATIC F FOR THE COURSE, and the Dean of Students will be contacted.
- The instructor has the final say on what is and what isn't plagiarism.
- All student work will be submitted to Blackboard and checked for plagiarism.

AI Generative Tools Policy:

- "Within the Creative Arts, the individual artist's voice is cornerstones. Writings, opinions and all creative work must be of your own creation. All students enrolled in this course are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on any assignments unless priorly authorized by the professor. Any usage must be properly quoted and cited or it will constitute a violation of academic integrity. Substantive assistance from others, including automated tools, is prohibited."

Academic Integrity:

- According to the [Student Guide](#), "Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to, final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers." (pgs. 14 & 15)
- At no time may a student be in possession of text or assessment materials without the instructor's permission.
- Disciplinary action against all forms of cheating may include, but is not limited to, receiving a zero on the assignment and/or receiving an F in the course.
 - In some cases, the Dean of Students will also be contacted.

NETIQUETTE

- Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes "netiquette" (Internet etiquette).
- The following site includes basic rules for Online Discussion Netiquette. Ensure that your e-mail messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful.
- Diverse opinions are welcome in this course.
- The following are PROHIBITED:

- making offensive remarks in e-mail or the discussion board or during class forums
- spamming, hacking, phishing, trolling, gossiping over DM, discussion boards or class forums
- screenshotting your fellow students'/Instructor's without permission
- screenshotting your fellow students'/Instructor's work without permission
- using SPC e-mail or discussion board for commercial purposes cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type

Language/Conduct Policy Statement:

- According to the Student Guide, "Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to, final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers." (pgs. 14 & 15)
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Language/Conduct Policy Statement:

- Students are expected to use respectful and professional language at all times in this course and as representatives of South Plains College Theatre.
 - The use of lewd, sexually explicit, vulgar, or profane language—including cursing—is strictly prohibited.
 - This policy applies in all class settings, including the classroom, the shop, and rehearsals, as well as during any events or appearances in the community or across the state where students are representing South Plains College Theatre.
- Maintaining a professional and respectful environment is essential to our creative and educational work.
 - Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with college and departmental guidelines.

Tips and Tricks for Success:

- Keep in Contact. Please contact the instructor through Blackboard messenger.
- Grades will be posted each Friday.
- All class work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm.
 - I will check my Blackboard messages around 5:00pm on Thursdays and after that I will not receive your messages till Friday.
 - That being said, DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MOMENT!!!!
 - "Poor planning on your part does not necessitate an emergency on mine." – Bob Carter
- Each week's work will open at 12:00pm (noon) on Fridays so you have an entire week to complete your work.

- Stay on top of Due Dates.
- IF YOU FALL BEHIND, CONTACT ME!!!! WE CAN MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR SUCCESS!!!!
- BLACKBOARD, EMAIL/COURSE MESSENGER & PDFs
 - If you have not mastered the usage of computer and online apps you should visit me or the Student Development Center: <https://howardcollege.edu/students/tutoring/>
 - Resources can be provided that can help you learn and review the concepts online learning.
 - There are multiple "How to" Videos in your course Blackboard
 - If online work seems to be overwhelming, maybe an in person course would be best for your success. We can make that decision together.
- The student will develop and learn the purpose of Cinema; as an expression of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
 - The student will be expected to respond critically and articulate an informed personal reaction to Live Theatre as an Art.

Institutional Policies

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

Course Calendar

Fall 2026 Calendar

*****All work is due by class time on the assigned due date.*****

(Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any extension must be requested and responded to in writing 24 hours before the due time. If not requested, a late penalty will be assessed.)

Module 1: Course Intro / What is Theatre? (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments**
 - Watch & Complete CC Notes:
 - Ed Puzzle - "What is Theatre?"
 - Introduction / Syllabus / Procedures Video & Quiz

Module 2: The Story (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments**
 - Crash Course:
 - Ed Puzzle - "Pee Jokes, the Italian Renaissance, Commedia Dell'Arte."
 - Viewing & Quiz (in Class)
 - Dissecting the Play: Plot (Lecture, Notes & Application)

Module 3: The Story (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments**
 - Crash Course (online):
 - Ed Puzzle - [Tragedy Lessons from Aristotle](#)
 - Viewing (Part 1)
 - Dissecting the Play: Hero's Journey (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **"My Script" Project**

- **Step #1:** Story Outline/Plot Structure (Assigned)

Module 4: Script Analysis (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Thespis. Athens and the Origins of Greek Drama](#)
 - Viewing Part 2 & Quiz
 - Dissecting the Play: Script Analysis (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #1:** Story Outline/Plot Structure (Due)
 - **Step #2:** Rough Draft (Assigned)

Module 5: The Format (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Straight Outta Stratford-Upon-Avon - Shakespeare's Early Days](#)
 - Viewing Part 1
 - Writing the Play: The Setting (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #2:** Rough Draft (Work Continued - Check in on Day 2)

Module 6: The Format (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Shakespeare's Tragedies and an Acting Lesson](#)
 - Viewing Part 2 & Quiz
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #2:** Rough Draft (Work Continued - Check in on Day 2)

Module 7: Art of Adaptation (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Zola, France, Realism, and Naturalism](#)
 - Viewing Part 1
 - Writing the Play: Say What? (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #2:** Rough Draft (Due)

Module 8: Letting the Idea Go (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Race Melodrama and Minstrel Shows](#)
 - Viewing Part 2 & Quiz
 - Versions: Macbeth: Compare and Contrast (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #2.5:** Final Draft (Assigned)

Module 9: Set/Props (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course-ish:
 - EdPuzzle - [TED Talk: Puppetry - Warhorse](#)
 - Viewing (Part 1)
 - Set Design: Stages & Spaces (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #2.5:** Final Draft (Due)
 - **Step #3:** Set Design (Assigned)

Module 10: Set/Props (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [China, Zaju, and Beijing Opera](#)
 - Viewing Part 2 & Quiz
 - Set Design: The Floor Plan (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #3:** Set Design (Work)

Module 11: Set/Props (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Broadway Book Musical](#)
 - Cirque du Soleil *Dralion* (Part 1) Viewing
 - How to use Color... Part 1 (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #3:** Set Design (Work)

Module 12: Costuming (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Off Broadway](#)
 - Cirque du Soleil *Dralion* (Part 2) Viewing & Quiz
- How to use Color... Part 2 (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #3:** Set Design (Due)
 - **Step #4:** Costuming (Assigned)

Module 13: Costuming (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - Crash Course:
 - EdPuzzle - [Checkov and the Moscow Art Theatre](#)
 - *Sonnets for an Old Century* (Part 1) Viewing
 - So your Concept is... (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #4:** Costuming (Work)

Module 14: Costuming (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **Weekly Assignments:**
 - *Sonnets for an Old Century* (Part 2) Viewing & Quiz

- Rendering (Lecture, Notes & Application)
- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #4:** Costuming (Due by end of Thanksgiving Holiday)

Module 15: Changing Minds (All work is due by Thursday at 11:59pm)

- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #5:** The Readings (Part 1)

Final Exam Time: All Together Now

- **“My Script” Project**
 - **Step #5:** The Readings (Part 2)

Class Assessments/Grading

Further details and due dates can be found on BlackBoard.

<u>Assignment Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Syllabus & Procedure Quiz	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Notes/Short Assignments/In Class Work	15%
Production Viewing & Quiz	25%
Crash Course	15%
Final Project	25%

<u>90-100%</u>	A
<u>80-89%</u>	B
<u>70-79%</u>	C
<u>60-69%</u>	D
<u>59% and Below</u>	F
<u>Failure to Complete / Attend</u>	FX