

**Clarendon College, Pampa Branch**

**Division of Liberal Arts (Fall/Spring)**

**SYLLABUS Introduction to the Theatre • DRAM 1310.101 (195) (3 hrs)**

**Lecture time Monday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.**

**• Instructor: Rochelle Lacy, Fall 2010**

**Clarendon College, Pampa Branch**

**Office hours/class schedule • 8068744838**

**TEXT REQUIRED:** Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb. Theater: The Lively Art- 6th edition, (Boston: McGraw-Hill College). 2008. This text is available at the Clarendon College, Pampa Branch Office

On-Line Learning Center: chapter outlines, objectives, flashcards, video clips and practice chapter quizzes

**[http://highered.mcgrawhill.com/sites/007351411x/student\\_view0/index.html](http://highered.mcgrawhill.com/sites/007351411x/student_view0/index.html)**

**com/sites/007351411x/student\_view0/index.html**

**COURSE CONTENT:** To provide the student with the fundamental knowledge of the development of western drama and the theatrical arts. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To give a working vocabulary of the conventions of theatre so that students may participate in it: • To give a greater knowledge of theatre history so that students may understand it: • To give practical experience in the theatre so that students may appreciate it: • To give the theoretical framework of performance so that students may utilize it.

**Methods of Instruction:** Lectures, video/DVD preview, special presentations, individual and group participation and email feedback for lecture and on-line students

This table/calendar is a guideline. You should be able to read the text, take unit tests, and complete all written assignments in 12-14 weeks.

**Guide Course Outline/Reading timetable will be provided separately.**

Tests and Papers

Unit One

Part 1 - The Theater in Today's World (Ch 1-3)

Audience & Critic (Ch 4) Acting (Ch 5) 1st Essay-deadline -1st essay

Playwright (Ch 6) Dramatic genres (Ch 7) 1st Test (ch 4-7)

Unit Two

Director & Producer (Ch 8) Theatre Spaces (Ch 9)

Designers: Scenery & Costume (Ch 10) Designers: Lighting & Sound (Ch 11)

2nd Test (ch 8-11) -deadline

1st Play Review-deadline

Unit Three

Greek/Roman Theatre (Ch 13) Medieval/Asian Theatre (Ch 14) Renaissance

Theatre (Ch 15) Restoration through Romanticism (Ch 16)

2nd Essay-deadline-

3rd Test (ch 13-16)

Unit Four

Early Modern Movements (Ch 17)  
Twentieth Century Diversity (Ch 18) Contemporary Trends (Ch 19)  
2nd Play Review-deadline  
4th Test (ch17-19) -deadline-  
Final Week Final exam on date/time as posted on Final Exam Schedule on  
Clarendon College website No chapter tests/papers accepted Dec.

**Introduction to Theatre Exams**

Exams : There are four (4) unit tests for this course and all are based on the publisher's chapter quizzes. If a test it missed, it should be taken by the next class period or before, by arrangement with the instructor. NO chapter tests or papers will be accepted Dec 6-9, 2010.

Unit One

Audience & Critic (Ch 4) Acting (Ch 5) Playwright (Ch 6) Dramatic genres (Ch 7) |  
1st Test (ch 4-7)deadline-

Unit Two

Director & Producer (Ch 8) Theatre Spaces (Ch 9) Designers: Scenery/Costume (Ch 10)Lighting/Sound (Ch 11)  
2nd Test (ch 8-11) -deadline-

Unit Three

Greek/Roman Theatre (Ch 13) Medieval/Asian Theatre (Ch 14) Renaissance Theatre (Ch 15) Restoration through Romanticism (Ch 16)  
3rd Test (ch 13-16) -deadline-

Unit Four

Early Modern Movements (Ch 17) 20th Century Diversity (Ch 18) Contemporary Trends (Ch 19)

4th Test (ch17-19) -deadline-

On-Line Learning Center: practice chapter quizzes (review-no credit)

[http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007351411x/student\\_view0/index.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007351411x/student_view0/index.html)

**Introduction to Theatre Assignments:**

1. The student is expected to attend and review two (2) live theatrical play performances during the time allocated for this course. The review should be a minimum of 2 pages, but not more than 4 pages).

**1st Review Due: Oct , 2010**

**2nd Review Due: Nov 17, 2010**

One-Act-Plays and musical reviews will not be accepted, you must go to 2 full-length plays, operas or ballets.

**Include in the review**

Your Name, Course # and Date

Play Title and playwright

when you saw the play (date:dd,mm,yr)

where; both town/city and theatre, it was presented

who (college, high school, community theatre, etc.) produced it

History of production (Where/when it was first produced)and include at least 2 reviews from previous productions of the show(s) you are reviewing). Do not write a synopsis of

the play.

Build your review around the following questions:

Did I enjoy the show?

Would I recommend it to a friend?

Was the play appropriate for both the actors and the audience?

Was the play worth doing?

What was the playwright trying to say?

Was it well said? • Was it worth saying?

Was the acting convincing?

Did the scenery, lights and costumes help me enjoy or better understand the show? These 2 reviews are 20% of your total grade.

### **Live Theatre Links in the Texas Panhandle.**

Clarendon College Theatre-<http://www.theatre-arts.net/pages/home.htm> Amarillo Little

Theatre- <http://www.amarillolittletheatre.org/> Amarillo College Theatre[http://](http://sites.actx.edu/~theatre/season1.htm)

- <http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/bit-current-season.aspx> Texas Tech Theatre,

Lubbock: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/theatreanddance/> Wayland Baptist University

Theatre, Plainview:

[http://www.wbu.edu/news\\_and\\_events/2008/september/theatreseason.html](http://www.wbu.edu/news_and_events/2008/september/theatreseason.html) Midwestern

State University Theatre, Wichita Falls: <http://finearts.mwsu.edu/theatre/index.asp>

### **One Play attendance may be satisfied with a movie/play compare and contrast essay/review.**

View a movie based on a play: look for Shakespeare, Neil Simon, Sam Shepard, Arthur Miller, etc.

Read and write an essay on the play that the movie is based on. (same criteria as play essays below) Write a compare and contrast review on the treatment of the movie to the play script.

Build your compare and contrast review around the following questions:

What does the title mean in relation to the film/play as a whole?

How are the opening credits of the film presented? Do they relate to meaning in the play?

Why does the film/play start in the way that it does?

Are there any motifs (scenes, images) of dialogue which are repeated? What purpose do they serve?

Is sound used in any vivid ways either to enhance the film? (i.e. Enhance drama, heighten tension, disorient the viewer, etc.)

How does the film use color or light/dark to suggest tone and mood in different scenes?

Are there any striking uses of perspective (seeing through a character's eyes, camera angle, etc.) How does this relate to the meaning of the scene in the movie/play?

What specific scene constitutes the film's/play's climax? How does this scene resolve the central issue of the film/play?

Does the film/play leave any disunities (loose ends) at the end? If so, what does it suggest?

Why does the film/play conclude on a particular image?

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## 2. Read plays assigned and write two short essays (2 to 3 pages)

Read and write your first essay on Tartuffe, by Moliere, or She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith 1st Essay Due: Sept, 2010

Read and write your second essay on Pygmalion by G. B. Shaw, or The Master Builder by Henrik Ibsen. 2nd Essay Due: Oct, 2010

These essays are 20% of your total grade.

Include in your essays, answers to the following questions.

Your Name, Course #, Date

Name of play read

What was the writer attempting to say?

What mood did the play create?

What was your feeling at the end of the script?

Which scene stood out most clearly?

Which character was most memorable?

Which characters, if any, were difficult to understand?

If you were directing this script for the stage, who would you cast in the two major roles?

Do you think this play would attract an audience in your community? Do not write a synopsis of the play.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A PAPER:

All papers (review/essay) are due on weeks shown in course calendar, but may be submitted at will if completed early.

More plays online: <http://www.gutenberg.org>:

<http://www.bibliomania.com/0/6/4/1049/frameset.html>

This course meets requirements for core curriculum degree planning and is designed for transfer credit.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating or plagiarizing on assignments or exams will not be tolerated. Such conduct will result in the student being dropped from the class with an F.

### Exemplary Educational Objectives

To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts.

To understand those works as expressions of individual & human values within an historical/social context.

To respond critically to works in the arts.

To engage creative process & understand the physical & intellectual demands required of the artist.

To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts.

To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the arts.

To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of the arts or intercultural experiences.

**WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE:** A student who drops a course after the first 12 class days of instruction will receive a grade of "W." No classes may be dropped after the 12th week of a fall or spring semester or the 5th week of a summer term. To drop a class, the student must obtain the written consent of the instructor. Drop forms are available in the Student Services Office.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Cheating violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination before it is given;

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- (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination;
  - (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
  - (5) taking an examination for another person;
  - (6) altering grade records;

(7) plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:** It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations for individuals with documented 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 contact the student services office in a timely manner if he/she desires to arrange for accommodations.

This syllabus does not have full html online links. Go to: <http://www.theatrearts.net/pages/introth9.htm>

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