



**Syllabus:** Introduction to Theatre

**Course Number:** DRAM 1310

**Semester & Year:** Spring 2014

**Instructor Information**

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**Textbook Information**

Theatre, Brief Version; Cohen; 9<sup>th</sup> edition; ISBN – 778-0-07-733351-5

The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama; W.B. Worthen; 6<sup>th</sup> edition; ISBN10: 0-495-90323-X; ISBN13: 978-0-495-90323-9

**Student Learning Outcomes for the Course**

Demonstrated Competencies:

1. Reading – Interpret knowledge from text and anthology for quizzes.
2. Writing – Produce written papers on live productions based upon classroom instruction and personal artistic opinion.
3. Speaking – Group/peer presentations explaining and demonstrating text concepts to class, along with classroom discussions based upon plays read for class.
4. Listening – Interpret class information from lectures, videos, discussions
5. Critical Thinking – Incorporate elements of theatre (physical, literary, conceptual) in production papers and classroom discussions.
6. Computer Literacy – Produce papers following instruction for preparation and presentation.

**Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates**

This class presents an introduction to what the theatre is about: how and where it happens, who makes it happen and how they do it, and - most importantly - WHY theatre is essential to our lives and our society.

We will discuss and examine the nature of art and specifically theatre as a fine art, the roles in and functions of all participants in theatre (playwrights, directors, designers, actors), major dramatic forms and genres, and take a closer look at several individuals and groups who are important contributors to modern theatre.

These are what I call the “RULES OF THE GAME”:

1. You are required to see two theatrical productions this semester: GODSPELL (produced by the Texarkana Repertory Company, performance dates Feb. 1-3, 8-10); and SPAMALOT (produced by the TC Drama Department and the

Texarkana Repertory Company, performance dates MAY 10-12, 17-19 –  
NOTE: You must see SPAMALOT on the first weekend). If you sign up to usher, you may see the shows for free.

2. You will turn in a three-page typewritten critique of the production (we will discuss the specifics of each paper in class.
3. You may receive Extra Credit with critiques of additional productions, as agreed upon by the professor.
4. We will read approximately six (6) plays over the course of the semester. For each play you will write a 'Play Card.' On 3x5 index cards give the following information (one card per play):

Title

Author

# of Acts/Characters (ex: 3 Acts; 5m 3f)

A. Give examples of what makes the play important in the scope of theatrical history

B. Evaluate the work on your own terms. (Did you like it? Why? Why not?)

Play cards will be turned in when you arrive for the Final Exam.

5. You will be quizzed on each play read for class from the Anthology and each chapter read for class from the Text.

### **Student Assessment**

Grading will be based on averaging of Class Participation/Discussion, Quizzes, Critiques, Play Cards and any Extra Credit.

### **Grading Scale**

Grade	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59-below

**CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN IN CLASS!!!** (Unless you are a medical professional on call, or have another good reason that you okay with me)... First offense will be given a warning, Second offense will result in you being dropped from the class!!!

### **Class Schedule**

Please see provided Calendar for the semester. The specific requirements of EACH class meeting are identified.

**Attendance Policy**

You will be allowed four (4) absences without penalty – as our class meets twice a week, this allows you two weeks of absences from school. Three tardies equal one absence. At five absences you will be dropped from the class.

**Make-up Policy**

Please consult the Class Calendar. There are two specific dates for Make-up Quizzes – one for Plays and one for Chapters. Quizzes may be taken (or re-taken) ONLY on these dates. Critique papers for the two required productions may NOT be made-up.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

**Disability Act Statement:**

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations..

**Financial Aid:**

**Attention!** Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

