

THTR 1301

Theatre Plays in Performance

University of Texas at Tyler
3900 University Blvd.
Tyler, Texas 75799

Instructor Information Name: Michael K. Ward, Master of Arts

Email: mward@uttyler.edu * My UT Account is a little sketchy if you email and I don't respond text me. I actually prefer it and will get back to you much quicker.

Office: Zoom or Facetime

Office Phone: cell phone (text preferred) 903-504-3881 You may text me if there is a problem between the hours of 8am and 9pm.

Office Hours: By appointment only. Zoom or Facetime.

Catalogue Information:

This course studies the theatre as an art form, examining its history, and the play production process with emphasis on those elements retained in modern theatre practice. The reading of varied styles of dramatic literature and attendance at theatre productions is required.

Knowledge Bases

This class will look at the history of theatre including a history of theatre, plays, playwrights, and all others associated with the theatre from its conception to the contemporary theatre. The student will receive a general knowledge in all aspects of theatre.

Learner Outcomes

1. Learners will study dramatic texts and be able to discuss genre, style, plot, as well as character analysis
2. Learners will understand the origins of theatre and study the history of the theatre from conception to the contemporary.
3. Learners will understand all basics of theatre hierarchy as well as basic vocabulary, and parts of a theatre.
4. Learners will understand the roles of the players in any theatrical production and be able to replicate creative works on their own.
5. Learners will understand and participate in the collaborative nature that is the theatre through assignments and projects.

This class is completely online. Make sure to finish everything in each module

Module One – Due Jan. 18th 10pm

Introduction Origins of Theatre Greeks & Romans

Read / Watch Antigone

Take Syllabus Quiz.

Take Quiz Over Greek Theatre / Antigone

Discussion Board Post

Module Two – Due Jan. 25 10pm

Complete Reading on Dark Ages

Watch film (or read) Everyman

Take Quiz Over Dark ages and Everyman

Module 3 – Due Feb. 1 10pm

Renaissance – Shakespeare, Molier, Marlowe

Read or Watch -A Mid-Summer Night's Dream

Read the handout on Director's vision

Take Quiz Over notes and Film

Module 4 Due Feb. 8 10 pm

Read or watch the play Dr. Faustus Rent on Amazon Instant or
Youtube.

Read Over Types of Stages

Quiz

Module 5 – Due Feb. 15 10pm

Close out Renaissance – The Globe Theatre – Stage Geography

Watch Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged

Take Quiz

Make Selection of project and explain your choice in the Discussion Board.

Module 6 – Due Feb 22 10pm

Read about Eugene O'Neil

Read or watch Long Days Journey Into Night by Eugene O'Neil

Take Quiz over Long Days Journey Into Night and Eugene O'Neil

Module 7 – Due March 1 10pm

Read Arthur Miller Biography (Biography.com)

Read / Watch Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Take Quiz over Miller and Play

Module 8 Due March 8 10pm

Mid Term Exam

Spring Break!!!!!!

Module 9 - Due March 22 10pm

Read Tennessee Williams Biography

Read Cat or watch Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Quiz Over Tennessee Williams and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Module 10 Due March 29 10pm

Read Lorraine Hansbury Biography

Read / Watch – A Raisin in the Sun

Quiz Over both

Module 11 Due April 5 10pm

The Theatre Process and roles

Read Sophie Treadwell Biography

Read / Watch Machinal

Quiz over the Theatre Process, Sophie Treadwell, and Machinal

Discussion Post over Machinal

Module 12 Due April 12 10pm

Work on Projects

Read Sam Shepherd Bio (Biography.com)

Read True West

Quiz

Module 13 Due April 19

Musical Theatre History and Watch Musical

Post to Discussion Board

Projects Due

Module14 Due April 26

Read Biography Martin McDonagh

Watch Read The Lieutenant of Inishmore.

Quiz

Module 15 Due by FRIDAY MAY 2ND 10pm

Study for and take final by May 2nd 2026 at 10pm no exceptions.

Grading –

There will be Quizzes over readings, lectures, and plays that we watch/read – 10 at 30 points each – total of 300

5 Discussions at 40 points each totally 200

Mid-term exam is worth 100 points

Final exam is worth 100 points

Project worth 100 points

Extra Credit to replace 1 quiz grade – See a live performance of a play

Places to see plays

Tyler Civic

Cowen Center

Tyler Legacy Theatre

Tyler High School Theatre

Cumberland High School Theatre.

Bring ticket stub program and 1 page double spaced summary of the experience.

Total of 800 points ***** Canvas only shows you what you have attempted. Do not look at the percentage. Check your points online (not the app) to know your grade.

A – 716-800

B –636- 715

C - 556-635

D- 476- 555

F- Below 476

Project Options- Choose 1

1. Theatre Through Time: Historical Overview Project

Focus: Basic theatre history

Students research a major era of theatre (Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Neoclassical, Modern, Contemporary).

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

Key elements:

- Social and cultural context
- Performance space and acting styles
- Key playwrights and works

2. Women Who Changed Theatre

Focus: Women in theatre

Students study a woman who significantly influenced theatre (e.g., Sophocles' female characters vs. real women playwrights, Aphra Behn, Lorraine Hansberry, Caryl Churchill, Ntozake Shange, Lin-Manuel Miranda's collaborators, contemporary directors).

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

Key elements:

- Historical barriers
- Artistic contributions
- Lasting influence

3. Global Theatre Traditions Project

Focus: Theatre across cultures

Students explore a non-Western theatre tradition such as:

- Japanese Noh or Kabuki
- Chinese Opera
- Indian Sanskrit or Kathakali
- African ritual theatre
- Latin American Teatro Campesino

Key elements:

- Cultural origins
- Performance conventions
- Role of theatre in society

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

4. Script in Context

Focus: Reading theatre as literature

Students analyze a play from any era or culture, focusing on how historical or cultural context shapes the text.

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

Key elements:

- Theme and message
- Characters and conflict
- Cultural or gender perspectives

5. Design the Show

Focus: Production elements

Students create a conceptual design (set, costume, lighting, or sound) for a play of their choice.

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

Key elements:

- Artistic rationale
- Cultural or historical influence
- Visual or written design explanation

6. Theatre and Social Change

Focus: Theatre as activism

Students research how theatre has addressed social issues such as gender equality, race, class, colonialism, or political resistance.

Examples:

- Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed
- Feminist theatre movements
- LGBTQ+ theatre history

Key elements:

- Issue addressed
- Audience impact
- Cultural significance

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

7. Performance Analysis Project

Focus: Audience perspective

Students attend or watch a recorded performance and analyze it using theatre vocabulary.

Key elements:

- Acting and directing choices
- Design elements
- Cultural or gender representation

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

8. Create Your Own Theatre Concept

Focus: Creative application

Students propose an original play or performance inspired by a specific culture, historical period, or women-led theatre movement.

Key elements:

- Concept and theme
- Intended audience
- Cultural awareness and respect

Create: Presentation powerpoint or google slides 10 slides including a Works Cited.

Common Rubric (100 Points Total)

1. Content Knowledge & Research (25 points)

- **25–22:** Accurate, thorough, and insightful understanding of theatre concepts
- **21–18:** Clear understanding with minor gaps
- **17–14:** Basic understanding; limited depth
- **13–0:** Incomplete or inaccurate content

2. Cultural & Gender Awareness (20 points)

- **20–18:** Thoughtful engagement with cultural and/or gender perspectives
- **17–14:** Clear recognition of diversity and context
- **13–10:** Limited discussion of cultural or gender issues
- **9–0:** Little to no awareness shown

3. Critical Thinking & Analysis (20 points)

- **20–18:** Strong analysis; clear connections and original insights
- **17–14:** Solid analysis with some interpretation
- **13–10:** Mostly summary; limited analysis
- **9–0:** No analysis or unsupported ideas

4. Organization & Clarity (15 points)

- **15–13:** Well-organized, clear, and easy to follow
- **12–10:** Generally organized with minor issues
- **9–7:** Some organization problems
- **6–0:** Disorganized or unclear

5. Creativity & Engagement (10 points)

- **10–9:** Highly engaging and creative
- **8–7:** Some creativity evident
- **6–5:** Minimal creativity
- **4–0:** Little effort to engage

6. Presentation Mechanics & Citation (10 points)

- **10–9:** Polished, error-free, properly cited sources
- **8–7:** Minor errors, mostly correct citations
- **6–5:** Frequent errors or weak citations
- **4–0:** Unprofessional or missing citations

Total: 100 Points

Netiquette –

Show respect to all members of the class and the professor. It is perfectly fine to have different opinions, however it is not acceptable to attack another student or resort to name calling. These behaviors will result in removal from the class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

☒ Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

- ☒ Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- ☒ Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- ☒ Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for payment
- ☒ Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct: Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;

- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

(iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu, <http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/>
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu, <https://www.uttyler.edu/tutoring/>
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, This is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)
<https://www.uttyler.edu/counseling/>