

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

THEATRE APPRECIATION

DRAM - 1310 - 03

JOSEPH TAYLOR

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

THEATRE APPRECIATION

1310_03

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.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

NONE

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

It would be in the best interest of the student to be prepared to discuss the topic(s) at hand. Participation is a big part of this class.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Joseph Taylor

MCC E-mail: jataylor@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8173

Office Location: MTA 105-B

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm – 3pm

Other Instruction Information: Conferences Hours needed outside of scheduled times can be arranged via email and will be in form of Zoom call

Suggested Text & Materials:

Title: Theatre: Collaborative Acts

Author: Ronald Wainscott and Kathy Fletcher

Edition: 4th

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN: 978-0-205-11802-1

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Text book reading assignments along with PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and lectures will be provided in class to accompany each textbook chapter for the learner. Lectures shall cover a wide variety of topics that will stimulate creative thought and focus on both inductive and deductive problem solving.

While some of this class will be in lecture type format, most of it will involve discussion (i.e. you talking and sharing your ideas) about the given topic. You will need to be active in participating in these discussions. Classroom discussion will cover a wide variety of topics.

THEATRE APPRECIATION

1310_03

Students are required to attend two live performances and write detailed critiques addressing and evaluating the specific theatrical conventions and devices utilized in each unique performance.

Links to online play scripts may be provided for reading and further discussions. Classroom discussions will be used as a vehicle for students to share ideas and insights into the nature of their exploration of theatre. Unit presentations will enhance the student's knowledge of the theatrical production process. Assigned readings will supplement the student's knowledge of the practices of theatre. Student is expected to keep up with homework assignments, tests, and discussions. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and may result in a failing grade.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

This course is an extensive investigation into the various activities and methods of theatrical practice. It includes discussions, readings, and lectures designed to discover, analyze and evaluate all aspects of the theatre experience: scripts, acting, directing, staging, history, criticism and theory. No previous experience or knowledge of theatre is required.

Course objectives include the following:

- To create a more knowledgeable theatre patron.
- To gain a better understanding of the theatrical process and identify the historical evolution of theatre as a cultural art form.
- To expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought.
- To engage in critical analysis and formulate aesthetic judgments.
- To develop an appreciation for the arts as fundamental to the health and survival of any society.

Course Outline or Schedule:

8/23 – First Day of Class – Syllabus Discussion

8/25 – What is Theatre/Theater Lecture

8/30 – Greek Theatre History Lecture

9/1 – Greek Theatre History Lecture

9/6 – Roman Theatre History Lecture

THEATRE APPRECIATION

1310_03

9/8 – Roman Theatre History Lecture

9/13 – Indian Theatre History Lecture

9/15 – Chinese/Japanese Theatre History Lecture AND Read *Steel Magnolias*

9/20 – The Director and the Actor Lecture

9/22 – Criticism and Writing a Critique

9/27 – Review of Unit 1 AND Discussion of *Steel Magnolias*

9/29 – Unit 1 Test

10/4 – Aristotle Lecture AND *Steel Magnolias* Critique Paper DUE

10/6 – Aristotle Lecture

10/11 – Understanding Playwriting Lecture AND Playwriting Assignment Given

10/13 – Understanding Playwriting Lecture AND Final Project Discussion

10/18 – Scenic Design Lecture

10/20 – Scenic Design Lecture and Demonstration

10/25 – Lighting Design Lecture

10/27 – Lighting Design Lecture and Demonstration

11/1 – Make Up Design Lecture

11/3 – Make Up Design Lecture and Demonstration AND Playwriting Assignment DUE

11/8 – Sound Design Lecture

11/10 – Sound Design Lecture and Demonstration AND Read *Gods of Comedy*

11/15 – Discussion *Gods of Comedy* AND Written Critique Discussion

11/17 – Unit 2 Review

11/22 – Unit 2 Test AND *Gods of Comedy* Critique Paper DUE

11/29 AND 12/1 – Final Presentations (12/1 – Last Day of Class)

Course Grading Information:

GRADING CHART – Please make sure to look at the grading criteria chart for a breakdown of each letter grade

A 100 – 91

B 90 – 81

C 80 – 71

D 70 – 61

F 60 or below

Extra Credit opportunities possible if necessary.

Written Assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc.

College-level writing is expected. **PLEASE SEE WRITING YOUR CRITIQUE DOCUMENT FOR MORE CLARIFICATION**

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Student is expected to keep with assignments, tests, and projects. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and may result in a failing grade. Course work will not be accepted past the due date. If you know you will have a conflict meeting a deadline please discuss this with the instructor ahead of time.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Active and relevant participation in classroom discussion is expected every day. Students are expected to be courteous to fellow students and respect their comments and questions.

Research may be conducted via the Internet, provided that it is properly cited and no more than 50% comes from the Internet. Wikipedia may not be used as a cited source under any circumstances. The use of Wikipedia as a cited source or using the Internet for more than 50% of research will result in a lower grade.

Please demonstrate acceptable “netiquette” when communicating with your peers and your professor. Communication is vital to a student’s success in this class. To chat with your professor, please e-mail or communicate via phone.

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and result in a failing grade.

THEATRE APPRECIATION

1310_03

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/student-email.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.