

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

THEATER APPRECIATION

DRAM – 1310 – 87

KATHLEEN LAUNDY

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.

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Course Description:

In this course you will learn about all phases of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to the fine arts. Attendance at MCC's productions is a required part of the course.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

I am aware that racism deeply impacts all the work I do in theatre; It is my job as a teacher to counter the racism inherent in the theatre industry with anti-racist practices through conscious effort to reduce harm, prevent harm, and repair relationships. I teach this class through an anti-racism lens.

Theatre, historically and currently, deals with complex and controversial issues; it is often challenging and at times uncomfortable. It would therefore be impossible to offer a meaningful introduction to theatre that did not engage, at times, with potentially difficult issues including systemic racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, misogyny, ableism, and body-shaming. Many of us will have different responses to the plays we read and attend, and that is an excellent thing. In our discussions, all thoughtfully and respectfully expressed viewpoints are welcome and encouraged. However, no one may be excused from reading, viewing, or discussing a play based on its content. Students who are concerned about the content of this class or their ability to complete the required work should talk to the instructor.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Kathleen Laundry

MCC Email: klaundy@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254 299-8191

Office Location: MTA 105F This is where my mailbox is.

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MTA 114 is the costume shop and where you'll actually find me most hours of the day. M-F 1:30-5. I am always available by email. Additionally, I am also available on zoom. Email me and we can set up a time to zoom.

Required Text & Materials:

There is no required textbook. Links to free online scripts are provided. PDFs of

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MCC production scripts are included.

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Overviews of each unit provide the key concepts. Foundational learning consists of articles, powerpoints, and videos. Worksheets are provided to guide the student through the foundational learning. Discussion boards will allow the students to further explore each unit and relate the content to things within their experience. Students will attend live theatrical performances and write detailed critiques evaluating the specific theatrical conventions and devices utilized in that unique performance. One design project will be assigned over a specific theatrical style that will expose the learner to concepts outside of the MCC performances. Links to online play scripts will be provided for reading and further discussions. Feedback on assignments, discussion boards, and assessments will be provided by the instructor within 48 hours of the due dates.

Student is expected to keep up with online assignments, tests, and discussion forums. 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 online 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. No previous experience or knowledge of theatre is required. Course objectives include the following:

1. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to discuss how theatre reflects the time and culture in which the play was written as well as the time and culture of those who are performing and watching it.
2. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to discuss that theatre is a collaborative art and the collaborators are playwrights, directors, designers, actors and audience members.
3. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to watch a play and successfully analyze and critique the performance in terms of its historical and cultural relevance both when the play was written and when it was being performed, as well as the success or failure of all of its collaborators.

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Course Outline or Schedule:

Each unit of instruction will last two weeks except for Unit 6, which will last three weeks. These are suggested due dates. You are free to work at your own speed. The only requirement is that you must finish a unit and submit the checklist before you will be allowed to begin work on the next unit. I have allowed two weeks per unit, which will give you three weeks for the Designers Module at the end.

- Getting Started Aug 28
- What is Theatre?: Sept. 4
- Audiences: Sept. 18
- Critics: Oct. 2
- Playwrights: Oct. 16
- Directors: Oct. 30
- Designers: Nov. 13
- Actors: Nov. 27

Representation Matters Discussion Boards:

- Black Aug 28
- Jewish Sept 4
- Native American/First Nations Sept 11
- Hispanic/Latinx Sept 18
- Middle Eastern/North African/Muslim Sept. 25
- Asian American/Pacific Islander Oct. 2
- Cultural Misappropriation Oct 9
- Women Oct 16
- Body Positivity Oct 23
- LGBTQIA Oct 30
- Physical Disability Nov 6
- Intellectual Disability Nov 13
- Ageism Nov. 20

Course Grading Information:

Students will earn grade points by completing the following assignments:

- 13 Discussion Boards worth 25% of your grade.
- 8 Module Quizzes worth 50% of your grade.
- 2 play papers analyzing our two productions worth 25% of your grade.

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You may check your grades at any time by clicking on the Assessments button in Brightspace.

Extra Credit:

I am a big fan of extra credit. There are five ways to earn extra credit in this course:

1. Go see other plays. Take a selfie with your program in front of the theatre and send it to me.
2. Registering to vote/voting. Send me a photo of your voter registration card or a photo of you wearing your *I Voted!* Sticker
3. Go to a march, demonstration, or protest with a sign. Do a 5K fundraiser. Participate in any event that helps the community and take a selfie with some relevant signage and send it to me. I will make you aware of these opportunities throughout the semester as they come up.
4. Completing my faculty evaluation before the end of the course. When you get to the end of the survey, take a screen shot of the "Thank you for completing this evaluation" message and send it to me.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Students are expected to keep up with weekly reading, quizzes, and discussion boards. 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:

You will need to be active in participating in the weekly discussions and projects to be successful in this course. Communication is vital to a student's success in this class. To communicate with the instructor students should email the instructor directly at klaundy@mclennan.edu. Every student has the right to a safe and pleasant learning environment. Keep your language professional on the discussion boards. Cyber-bullying will not be tolerated. Offenders will face severe consequences.

[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.

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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.