



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Intro to Theater
DRAM 1310-01**

Christopher Cole

NOTE: This is a 16 week course

McLennan
theatre

Course Description:

Survey of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to other art forms.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Content-

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 religion, gender, race, sexuality, class, violence and politics. 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 me.

Respect-

In this class, we will engage in discussion about theatrical productions, current events, historical views about race, sex, religion. As we engage in discussion remember that we are not always going to agree on a subject but that it is crucial that we remain respectful of others views even if we disagree. I will allow discussion and at times that may lead to CIVIL discourse. I will not tolerate disrespect of your fellow students or myself. If I find your comments to be disrespectful I will warn you, second you will be removed from class for the day, if it happens again or if I find your level of disrespect to be severe I will remove you from class and you will receive an F in the course. If you cannot articulate your thoughts in a respectful manner then it is probably best you keep those thoughts and comments to yourself.

"But I just HAVE to get an A! ... Or a C!"

Many students want an A because it reflects a high level of academic competence and accomplishment; it means you put a lot of work into mastering the material of the class. However, some students are subject to external pressures brought on by student visas, scholarships, requirements for a major, academic probation, or graduation, and desperately "need" to achieve a certain grade. The onus for receiving the grade you need is on you, the student who earns it. YOU determine what your grade will be (not me) based on your

performance over the course of the semester and the work you put into the class. If there's a lot riding on your grade, start working NOW to achieve the grade you want. Pay attention in class and avoid distractions, do your homework, take notes (beyond just what's written on the slides), regularly review your notes, form a study group, start studying for tests early rather than procrastinating, begin your assignments early and put effort into them, and feel free to come see me in office hours or schedule an appointment if need any help or if you just want to make sure you're on the right track. At the end of every semester, panicked students contact me when there is frankly nothing I can do about their grade, because the student already earned that grade based on their performance over the course of the semester. Not only is it unfair to your peers to ask for special consideration at the end of the semester, it's also unnecessary if you've been proactive about your work and grades throughout the course. If you contact me at the end of the semester to ask for any sort of change to your grade, I will not answer your email except to cut and paste this paragraph into my reply.

Communicating via E-mail:

All Emails about class work or absences must be sent from your MCC email account. I will not open emails that do not come from a university account.

Please check your e-mail and your Bright space frequently. These will be my primary modes of communication with you. Although e-mail is often used informally, you should observe the basics of written communication in professional emails.

To receive a response from me, I urge you to do the following:

- 1) Use a greeting [Dear Professor Cole],
- 2) Write in complete sentences.
- 3) **Always** sign your name and section number at the bottom of your message. I cannot always decipher your name from your email address.

I will not respond to emails asking for information already provided in the syllabus. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours AND you have read the syllabus carefully and cannot find an answer, please re-send your email. I do not typically check or respond to email over the weekend or during university holidays.

Communicating via Office Hours: I hold weekly office hours and take appointments (this is usually best), I encourage you to come in and introduce yourself. Use this time to raise any concerns, questions, or ideas you have about the class. Do come see me!

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Christopher Cole

MCC E-mail: Ccole@mcleannan

Office Phone Number: 254.299.8118

Office Location: MTA 105C

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: 10 AM - 1 PM Fridays by appointment preferred

Other Instruction Information:

Required 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/>

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, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

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 contacted/notified through 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.

* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)
(www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

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. 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.

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Course Outline:

The following table outlines the semester's units of instruction. Please note, however, that additional assignments, readings, and quizzes (not listed below) may be added to this schedule as the semester progresses. Further, adjustments to due dates—if determined to be necessary by the instructor—may also occur. If changes are made, these will be communicated to students both in class and via Brightspace announcements.

Date	Tuesday	Due Tuesday	Thursday	Due Thursday
Dec 14/15	Introduction		Why Study Theatre	
Dec 21/23	Theatre and Ritual		Theatre and Ritual	
Dec 28/30	Greek Theatre		Poetics	
Feb 4/6	Roman Theatre		Exam 1 Review	
Feb 11/13	Attending the theatre.	Exam 1 Due by 5pm		
Feb 18/20	Acting		Acting	
Feb 25/27	Directing		Playwriting	
Mar 3/5	Discuss Chicago		TBA	
Mar 10/13 SB				
Mar 17/19	Elements of Design	1 st show Critique Due 5pm.	Technicians	
Mar 24/26	Elizabethan Theatre and Shakespeare		Elizabethan Theatre and Shakespeare	
Mar 31/ Apr 2	Theatrical Genres	Exam 2 Due by 5pm	Scenic Design	
Apr 7/9	Costume Design		Lighting Design	
Apr 14/16	Sound Design		Exam 3 Review	
Apr 21/23	Group Project		Group Project	Exam 3 Due by 5pm
Apr 28/30	Silent Sky inclass Review		Group Project	
Final Exam Period- 8 to 10am Thursday Dec 12 th Group Project Presentations.				

Course Grading Information:

Grading Criteria Total = 1000 points

900-1000 points = A

800-899 points = B

700-799 points = C

600-699 points = D

599-000 points = F

Attendance/Participation = 100 pts

Chapter Quiz (10 @ 10pts)= 100pts

Written Critique over first show = 100 pts

In Class Critique over second show= 100pts

Exams- (3 @ 150pts)= 450pts

Group Project = 150 pts

Extra Credit opportunities possible if necessary.

Written Assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc. College-level writing is expected

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 and 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.

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

* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)

(www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies)

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

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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

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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

* **[Click Here for more information about Title IX](#)**

(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

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 (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) 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.

* *You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*