

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Theatre Appreciation**

**Dram 1310 01**

**Christopher Cole**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course**

**NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course.**

### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

**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.

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**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.mcleannan.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. Many of these discussions will take place via the discussion board on Brightspace and will cover a wide variety of topics. Students are required to watch two 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. 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

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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:**

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.

Week OF	In Class	Online	NOTICE
Jan 11	Introduction	Greek Theatre	First Message board post due.
Jan 18	Why Study Theatre	Roman Theatre	
Jan 25	Theatrical Genres/ Performances Space.	Christianity & Theatre	
Feb 1	Acting	1300-1600 Japanese and English Renaissance	
Feb 8	Playwrighting	Shakespeare	
Feb 15	Directing	1500-1600 Spanish Golden and French Neoclassical	
Feb 22	Review Exam 1	Exam 1	Exam 1 Review

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Mar 1	Attending/Writing for theatre.	Pre Columbian and Nonwestern	Exam 1 Due
Mar 8			
Mar 15	Elements of Design	Beijing Opera and German Theatre	
Mar 22	Technicians	Melodrama	
Mar 29	Set Design	Realism and modernism	
Apr 5	Costume Design	“Isims” of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century	
Apr 12	Lighting Design	Epic and Cruel Theatre	
Apr 19	Sound Design	Broadway and Beyond	
Apr 26	Exam 2 Review	Exam 2	Exam 2 due by final exam day.

### **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

Discussion Board = 100

Online Assignments (5 @ 20 pts)= 100 pts

Chapter Quiz (10 @ 20pts)= 200 pts

Critique over first show = 100 pts

Critique over second show= 100 pts

Exams- (2@ 150pts)= 300 pts

Extra Credit opportunities possible if necessary.

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

### **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:**

*“Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.”*

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

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://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](#)**

**(<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.

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

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **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. Students can 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](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

### **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](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

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.



**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.

**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 her/his 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.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the 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 become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**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](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

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

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://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](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) 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. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

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 Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*