

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Theatre Appreciation

DRAM – 1310 - 001

Benjamin Mason

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

Spring 2024

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:

For this course it is expected that students have basic computer skills such as simple word processing, saving, and copying files. This course also requires students to have fundamental internet skills including search skills, the ability to save and upload files, install plug-ins if necessary, and use email. The course uses the Brightspace D2L Learning platform and students are expected, through the first week orientation, to develop the skills needed to use the features related to this course.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Benjamin Mason

MCC Email: bmason@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8118

Office Location: MTA 105C

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM MW or by appointment

Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Theatre: Collaborative Arts*

Author: Ronald Waincott 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:

Textbook reading assignments and PowerPoint presentations, will be provided online to accompany each textbook chapter for the learner.

Students will be asked to review live theatrical performances and write detailed critiques evaluating the specific theatrical conventions and devices utilized in that unique performance.

One outside research project will be assigned over one period of theatre history that will expose the learner to concepts outside of the textbook.

Unit presentations will enhance the student's knowledge of the theatrical production process.

Assigned readings will supplement the student's understanding of the practices of theatre.

The student is expected to keep up with assignments and tests. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have severe consequences and may result in a failing grade.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

This course is an 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 Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 10% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Lecture	1-8	Intro/Syllabus	HW: Read Chapter 1
Lecture	1-10	Chapter 1	HW: Read Chapter 2
Lecture	1-15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Campus closed)	
Lecture	1-17	Chapter 2	HW: Read Chapter 3
Lecture	1-22	Chapter 3	HW: Read Chapter 4
Lecture	1-24	Chapter 4	HW: Read Chapter 5
		Spring Census date	
Lecture	1-29	Chapter 5	
	1-31	Catch up day	
Discussion	2-5	Watch <i>Comedy of Errors</i> Discuss <i>Comedy of Errors</i>	
Discussion	2-7	Watch <i>Comedy of Errors</i> Discuss <i>Comedy of Errors</i>	HW: Test #1 / Critique <i>Comedy of Errors</i>
Test	2-12	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> Critique Due TEST #1	HW: Read Chapter 6
Lecture	2-14	Chapter 6	HW: Read Chapter 7

Theatre Appreciation

DRAM 1310 - 01

Lecture	2-19	Chapter 7	HW: Read Chapter 8
Lecture	2-21	Chapter 8	HW: See <i>Into the Woods</i>
Discussion	2-26	Discuss <i>Into the Woods</i>	HW: Read Chapter 10
		<i>Into the Woods</i> critique due in BrightSpace	
Lecture	2-28	Chapter 10	HW: Read Chapter 9
		History Project Assignment Given	
Lecture	3-4	Spring Break (Campus closed)	
	3-6	Spring Break (Campus closed)	
Test	3-11	Chapter 9	
Lecture	3-13	Chapter 9 (continued)	HW: Test #2
Test	3-18	TEST #2	HW: Chapter 11
Lecture	3-20	Chapter 11	HW: Chapter 12
			HW: See <i>Princess and the Pea</i>
Lecture	3-25	Chapter 12	HW: Chapter 13
		<i>Princess and the Pea</i> critique due in BrightSpace	
Lecture	3-27	Chapter 13	HW: Test #3
	4-1	Catch up day	HW: Test #3
Test	4-3	TEST #3	
Workshop	4-8	Project Workshop	
Workshop	4-10	Project Workshop	
Workshop	4-15	Project Workshop	
Workshop	4-17	Project Workshop	
Workshop	4-22	Project Workshop	
Presentations	4-24	Project Presentations	HW: See <i>The Wolves</i>
		Critique of Project Play Due	

4-29 11:10 AM – 1:10 PM

Critique – *The Wolves*

Course Grading Information:

Grading Criteria Total = 500 points

500-450 points = A

449-400 points = B

399-350 points = C

349-300 points = D

299-000 points = F

Written opinion papers = 100 pts (4 at 25 pts each) or 20%

Tests = 300 pts or 60% (3 Tests - one for each “Act” of the text - will be given)

Theatre History Project = 100 pts or 20%

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

12 pt. font, Times New Roman (Only)

1-2 pages

Double Spaced (2.0 spacing, not 1.5)

Simple heading – Your name and date ONLY. Do not include the class or my name – I know my name. I’ve had it for 43 years.

Use the knowledge you gain throughout the semester to inform your writing about the plays and productions. I am interested in your thoughts and opinions. Write about those. Be sure to include the following (and remember, be specific with details):

Discuss writing, acting, directing, design, and technical choices made in the production.

What about the play/performance did you like?

What about the play/performance did you not like?

How would you describe your overall experience reading/watching the play?

NO PLOT SYNOPSIS! I have read the play repeatedly. I know the plot.

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

Student is expected to keep with assignments and tests. 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 and group discussions and projects to be successful in this course.

Communication is vital to a student's success in this class.

[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.

10/09/2023



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. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

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:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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/studentemail.

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](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

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](#) 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.