McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

THEATRE APPRECIATION

DRAM 1310 - 081

JOSEPH TAYLOR

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is an Online course.

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 the student has 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: Joseph Taylor
MCC Email: jataylor@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254)299-8173
Office Location: MTA 105B
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 11AM – 2:30PM
Other Instruction Information: If these hours are unavailable for the student, they may email me to set up another meeting time.

Required Text & Materials:
Title: ***Theatre: The Lively Art***
Author: Alvin Goldfarb; Megan Geiner; Edwin Wilson
Edition: 4th
Publisher: McGraw Hill
ISBN:978-1-266-30279-4

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Textbook reading assignments and PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and overviews will be provided online to accompany each textbook chapter for the learner. Forums and threads will cover various topics that stimulate creative thought and focus on inductive and deductive problem-solving. Students may be asked to review recorded live theatrical performances and write detailed critiques evaluating the specific theatrical conventions and devices utilized in that unique performance. One outside research project may be assigned over one playwright or period of theatre history that will expose the learner to concepts outside of the textbook. Links to online play scripts may be provided for reading and further forum discussions. Online 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 understanding of the practices of theatre. The student is expected to keep up with online assignments, tests, and discussion forums. 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 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: 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. (Sept. 10, 2025)

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% 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.

Course Outline or Schedule

Week 1	Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 2
Week 3	Chapter 3
Week 4	Chapter 4
Week 5	Chapter 5
Week 6	Chapter 6
Week 7	Chapter 7
Week 8	Chapter 8
Week 9	Chapter 9
Week 10	Chapter 10
Week 11	Chapter 11
Week 12	Chapter 12
Week 13	Chapter 13 AND 14

Week 14	Thanksgiving Break
Week 15	Chapter 15
Week 16	Final Exam

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

Participation (Discussion Boards)/Attendance = 100 pts or 20%
Written Critiques = 50 pts or 10%
Quizzes = 300 pts or 60% (15 quizzes - one for each chapter - will be given)
Final Exam = 50 pts or 10%
Extra Credit opportunities will possible if necessary.
Written Assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc. College-level writing is expected

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

Student is expected to keep with online assignments, tests, and discussion forums. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have consequences and may result in a failing grade. Course work will not be accepted past the due date without deduction. 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. Though this class is taught online, the instructor may require students to speak with him by telephone or in person.

Students should either post general class questions to the ASK THE PROFESSOR forum on the DISCUSSION BOARD or email the instructor directly to communicate with the instructor.

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.

06/24/2025

MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to begin the steps for requesting accommodations. 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 Accommodations (Disability Services). 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

Title IX:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. 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 a Title IX incident 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.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email titleix@mclennan.edu for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email titleix@mclennan.edu to submit a report.

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 https://www.lighthouse-services.com

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/ to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

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/

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.

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/)

Success Coaching Services is here for you.

We know life can be overwhelming sometimes—and that challenges outside the classroom can impact your success inside it. That's why our Success Coaches provide personalized support to help you navigate it all.

Success Coaching is available to every MCC student, no matter where you're starting from. Whether you're looking for direction, need quick advice, or just want someone to talk to, our coaches are here to listen, celebrate your strengths, and help you move forward with confidence. At Success Coaching Services, your voice is heard, your goals matter, and your future is our focus.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching, call 254-299-8226, or email success@mclennan.edu.

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing crew@mclennan.edu.

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing counseling@mclennan.edu.

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/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html

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:
For online and blended/hybrid courses, students must have access to a reliable computer and internet. For more information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system go to: https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html

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.