

Theatre Appreciation – THEA 1366 – Section 2 – Course Syllabus*

FALL 2022 * T/TR 12:30-1:45 PM * PAC 240 * CRN:82036 * 3 Credit Hours

Dr. Macaela Carder * UTC 113 * Email: mxw046@shsu.edu

* Student Hours – by appointment only, use this weblink: <https://macaela-carder.appointlet.com/b/macaela>

I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being. —Oscar Wilde

Catalog Description

Students analyze the theatrical experience for the audience with an examination of theatre's relation to the broad contemporary scene as well as its relations to past eras. In addition, students examine the production elements necessary to provide the theatrical experience.

Course Description

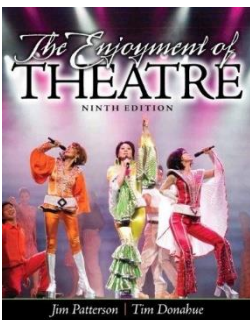
This course will introduce students to the theatrical experience. Students will develop a basic understanding of theatre as a living and viable artistic medium. Throughout the course, students will examine theatrical production practices (contemporary and historical), role of the audience, and the theatrical experience in relation to the broad contemporary scene. Teaching strategies include, but are not limited to, large and small group discussion, lecture, guest speakers, audio/visual materials, practical applications of ideas, and group presentations.

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals & Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to...

- **Synthesize** and **interpret** artistic expression of theatre artists, and their work on plays and musicals, in different periods of history in order to communicate from a critical and informed perspective.
- **Analyze** creative works, be they written, performance or rendering, and other works of the human imagination.
- **Discuss** and **interpret** theatre as a means of social change and commentary.
- **Evaluate** the interplay within the theatre production team as a conceptual and collaborative process.



Required Materials: Some required reading will be posted in Blackboard and/or a link will be provided to the source. At times instead of required readings you will be asked to locate the information on your own, in those instances a reading list will be provided. The main text for our class is *The Enjoyment of Theatre*, 9th edition, by Jim Patterson and Tim Donahue. You need to have a copy of the text by the beginning of Week 4.

* Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor in order to meet the individual and unique needs of the course.

Recommended Resources

1. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Eighth Edition. The Modern Language Association of America, 2016. Or *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Ninth Edition. The Modern Language Association of America, 2021.
2. *The Elements of Style*, Fourth Edition, William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White, Pearson Education, Inc., 2000.

Other recommended resources will be discussed as needed.

Assignments and Grades

Graded Components and Grading Scale:

Syllabus Quiz – 25 points

Library Resources Quiz – 25 points

Participation – 400 points

Playwrights for Social Change Assignment– 100 points

Play Response – 100 points

Design Project – 150 points

Exams – 200 points (100pts x 2 exams)

1000 points possible

Grading Scale 1000 points

900-1000 – A

800-899 – B

700-799 – C

600-699 – D

0-599 – F

Assignments:

You will receive detailed instructions for assignments and exams throughout the semester in class and on Blackboard.

Syllabus Quiz: The syllabus is our course contract, and you are responsible for the information in the syllabus, worth 25 points. See course calendar for due date

Library Quiz: We will have an embedded librarian for our course and the librarian will also spend class time with us going over the resources at our library. After reviewing the materials and discussions, you must complete the library quiz, worth 25 points. See course calendar for due date.

Participation: Participation is a large part of this course. We talk about theatre and we do theatre! As to the fluid nature of the course, participation assignments/points may take the following forms: in class-exercises, in-class workshops, online discussion board posts, pop quizzes (in-person), quizzes (online only), reflection statements (due online or in person), bring objects/materials to class for in-class activities, warm-ups, scene work, choreography, peer review, etc. **These all will be announced in class and sometimes online.** A Blackboard announcement and/or post in our Participation folder on Blackboard will be provided after the announcement in class. Participation assignments will not appear on the course calendar. 400 points total (over the course of the semester).

Playwrights for Social Change: Guidelines will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. See course calendar for dates, worth 100 points total.

Play Response: You will attend one play or musical production at SHSU in the department of theatre and musical theatre. Specific guidelines will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. See course calendar for specific production dates and assignment due date, worth 100 points total.

Design Project: The design project is a group project. Specific assignment guidelines will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. See course calendar for assignment due dates, worth 150 points.

Exams: There will be two exams: one at mid-term and one at the end of the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will take place online and you will have a set number of days to complete them (see course calendar). Further explanation will be provided closer to the time of the exam.

Writing Style Requirements:

Please follow MLA formatting for all written work. (Don't worry, I have examples and websites to help you). All written work is to be typed (size 12, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1" margins), carefully proofed, and free of grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors. Pages should be numbered, and your name, the professor's name, the class name, and the date should appear on the first page. (Review MLA guidelines for proper headings - don't worry, I'm here to help you with this.)

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to regularly (and punctually) attend scheduled class meetings. A tardy past 5 minutes is an absence for the day. This is a face-to-face course. There is no remote option. If university operations change due to Covid, I will update the policy and post it under our START HERE section on Blackboard. You will not be penalized for up to 3 absences, nor for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance and Covid related illness. After 3 absences, 5 points will be deducted from your participation grade for each excess absence. Also, 3 late arrivals = 1 absence. You must always take full responsibility for classes missed. Please refer to Late & Makeup Work for further information. Students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have been in contact with any person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or any illness: PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CLASS. For COVID-related absences that require a student to submit documentation to their faculty, the student should seek this documentation from the medical clinic or a medical provider where they received their care. If the student did not see a medical provider and requires documentation, they should utilize the [Absence Request Notification Form](#) and process through the Dean of Students Office. The Student Health Center is only able to provide documentation for students who had a medical appointment with our clinic.

Late & Makeup Work: You may make up a test or submit a project late only if you have legitimate and documented reason approved by the Student Advocacy Office, e.g., university obligation, hospitalization, court appearance, jury duty, funeral. Please refer to the [Student Absence Notification Policy](#) for a complete list of procedures for absences – this includes COVID-19 information. Late assignments are accepted up to 5 days after the due date (calendar days) with a 10% late penalty per day. NOTE on BLACKBOARD: If you think something did not load correctly, you have one week to tell me. No make-up work allowed for end of semester "oh, Blackboard didn't work 5 weeks ago" emails. Remember DUE date does not mean DO date. DO – a verb, to perform an action, such as working on an assignment. DUE – an adjective, the time/date when something must be completed. You want to go ahead and DO it before it is DUE.

Classroom Conduct: Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted as long as they are in spill-proof containers. See Classroom Environment in University Policies below.

Appropriate Use of Technology: The use of tablets and laptops for note taking is acceptable. **You may not use your phones to take notes nor to take pictures of any Powerpoints.** You must silence and put away phones. Some of the readings for this course are online you may use appropriate devices to access that material

when needed (phones are acceptable at this time). Audio and video recordings of class lectures and performances are not allowed unless prior instructor approval is granted. It is important for you to be an active participant in class discussions as well as a respectful member of the audience. ***Inappropriate use of technology will result in an absence for that day's class (ex. Texting in class).***

Professor Availability: My student hours are by appointment only via zoom. To schedule a time to meet with me, please use the following appointlet link: <https://macaela-carder.appointlet.com/b/macaela> Feel free to email me with questions at mxw046@shsu.edu, I am in my physical office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-10:30 am, 12-12:30 pm, and 2-3:15pm, and Thursdays from 11:00-12pm. You can stop by for a quick chat during that time, however since I cannot require you to wear a mask in my office, we can meet outside.

If you have questions or concerns, please talk with me; that's what student hours are for. A brief question before or after class is fine; however, anything substantial should be addressed at another time. Please realize too that I have a personal and a professional life beyond SHSU and are not available 24/7. Please allow 24 hours response time for email and voice mail.

INCLUSIVITY:

Every student in this classroom, regardless of background or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. No one experience has more value or import than another. We encourage every student to share their own experiences as they are relevant to the course, but we also stress that no student in this course is ever presumed to speak for anything more than their own experience or point of view.

Furthermore, in this classroom, you have the right to determine your own identity. You have the right to be called by whatever name you identify with, and for that name to be pronounced correctly. You have the right to be referred to by the pronoun you identify with. You have the right to adjust those things at any point in your education.

If there are aspects of the instruction of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or a sense of alienation from course content, please contact us privately without fear of reprisal.

COVID-19 POLICIES AND MONKEY POX

Currently, we are under normal operations according to the university. Please know that this might change as COVID-19 is an ongoing pandemic and Monkey Pox is a new public health concern. If the situation changes, I will post an updated policy on our Blackboard page. Please follow all university guidelines, stay up to date on the current policy located on <https://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/covid/> AND <https://www.shsu.edu/dept/student-health-center/monkeypox>. If disinfectant is still available in the classroom, please make use at the beginning of class and end of class. I also encourage you to carry hand sanitizer. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. **Any students found cheating on exams, or plagiarizing papers will FAIL the course.**

Classroom Environment: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and peers with respect and dignity. Section 5.2.22 in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines classroom disturbances as any activity which proves distracting to the learning environment including but not limited to the use of cell phones or text messaging; the reading of materials (newspapers, magazines, texts) not assigned to the class; the use of profanity or abusive behavior toward the instructor or other students; having off-topic conversations which disturb or disrupt the learning environment; the use of computers and/or other electronic devices (Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) during classroom instruction, therefore, as a result, under no circumstances are cell phones or any other electronic devices to be used or seen during classroom instruction or examination. Even the visible presence of such a device during an examination will result in a zero on that examination. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during class. **Violations of the code of conduct will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the classroom and may at the instructor's discretion result in the student(s) being referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of Students.** Any assignments missed because of disciplinary action cannot be submitted for a grade.

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holy Days: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

STUDENT AND PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Thinking for Ourselves

Learning is a *life-long* journey. Each class you participate in is a new learning experience – not only for you as a student but for me as a professor. It is important that we each take an **active** role in these experiences. We are all individuals with particular styles of thinking, different experiences, learning styles, and communication styles, so it is important to create a learning environment where we feel safe for trial and error – where we discuss our thinking processes and positions. We will create an environment that challenges us to critically engage in the social and cultural constructs of theatre. It is important for all of us to constantly and consistently ask ourselves how are we invested in our own knowledge and learning process. Don't take your understanding for granted – you are not vessels to be filled with knowledge – you are individuals capable of actively engaging in your learning process and accumulation of knowledge. Engage in classroom discussions, ask questions, draw from your own experiences; make the connections between your own experiences and the course material.

A part of my role as a professor is to give you the tools with which to actively pursue your education. I will not do the thinking for you, but I will help you to find your best way of learning. The arts community is an ever-changing society constantly reinventing itself. I will encourage you to continually question and reexamine your place in society as you and society changes. In this way, we can become learned citizens who can critically and reflexively engage in the world around us.

- I will provide weekly communication with the class through announcements (in class and on Blackboard) and email notifications.
- I will provide email responses within 24-hours of receipt during the hours of 9:00AM-4:00PM, Monday-Friday.
- I will provide grades and feedback (as needed) to assignments and projects within two weeks of the submission date. If something prevents me from this, I will communicate the adjusted timeline.
- I will provide feedback to discussion boards/participation assignments/worksheets as needed in a timely manner.
- I will provide clear and concise instructions on how to complete the course requirements.
- I will provide a range of opportunities to engage in the course content in a meaningful way.

Student Responsibilities

I care more about the people my students become than the grades they earn in my class. If you are focused on scoring that A, you will miss the experience. Don't worry about what I'm thinking, don't worry about disappointing me – I want to see you putting in the effort and engaging the material. Focus on the learning experience and the higher grades will come. I understand that grades are important for scholarships, programs, and financial aid. Here's what you need to do to succeed in this class

- Familiarize yourself with the course syllabus, course calendar, policies, assessments, evaluations, and course design on Blackboard
- Engage in the materials in class and on Blackboard on a regular basis
- Take notes.
- Complete all coursework (readings, projects, exams, exercises etc.) and complete it on time.

- Ask questions.
- Review feedback provided on assignments and incorporate feedback as needed.
- Communicate with me – I want to help you. Email me, call me, schedule a zoom meeting with me, or make an appointment to see me at my office. If you are struggling with something in the course – let me know. I’m here to help you succeed.
- Be respectful of your fellow community members.
- Listen, participate, and engage in class discussions with the entire classroom community.
- Show your work ethic in your participation and in your assignments.
- Respond to my communication requests regarding course progress and for general inquiries in a timely manner.
- Do your own work!!! Be diligent in citations and evaluating sources – when in doubt ask me.
- Be proactive and resourceful to problem solve in case of internet or technical issues.

**THEA 1366 Theatre Appreciation
Fall 2022**

(Calendar subject to change in order to meet the unique needs of our course)

Week/Dates	Topic/Activities	Assignments & Readings Due
WEEK 1		
TUE 8/23	Introduction & Warm Up	READ Syllabus and Course Calendar
THUR 8/24	What is theatre? What is performance?	Opt. Read Chapter 1
SUN 8/28		Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 pm
WEEK 2		
TUE 8/30	What is theatre? What is performance? Cont. Theatre Spaces	Read Chapter 6
THUR 9/1	Tour of SHSU theatre & Theatre Spaces continued	
WEEK 3		
TUE 9/6	The Role of the Audience & Theatre Audiences	Read Chapter 2
THUR 9/8	Library Resources for Theatre and Musical Theatre; discuss Playwrights for Social Change (PSC) assignment	We will meet in the library for class NGL 225/226
SUN 9/11		Library Resource Quiz due by 11:59 pm
WEEK 4		
TUE 9/13	The art of the playwright	
THUR 9/15	The art of the playwright cont.; The play – from page to stage	Read Chapter 3
WEEK 5		

TUE 9/20	The play – from page to stage cont.	Read selections from <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (script provided on Bb)
THUR 9/22	The play – from page to stage cont.; Discuss Play Response Assignment	Read Chapter 4
SUN 9/25		PSC Part 1 due by 11:59 pm
WEEK 6		
TUE 9/27	Art and business of acting	Read Chapter 8
THUR 9/29	Art and business of acting cont.	
<i>Airness by Chelsea Marcantel – 9/29 & 9/30 @ 7:30 pm; 10/1 @ 2pm and 7:30 pm</i>		
WEEK 7		
TUE 10/4	Art and business of directing	Read Chapter 9
THUR 10/6	Art and business of directing cont.	
SUN 10/9		PSC Part 2 due by 11:59 pm
WEEK 8		
TUE 10/11	Art and business of musical theatre	Read Chapter 19
THUR 10/13	Art and business of musical theatre cont.	
<i>American Idiot - Book by Billie Joe Armstrong & Michael Mayer; Music by Green Day; Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong – 10/13 & 10/14 @ 7:30 pm; 10/14 @ 2pm & 7:30 pm</i>		
WEEK 9		
MON 10/17	EXAM 1 available online by 12:01 am (covers materials week 1-8)	
TUE 10/18	Art and business of production	Read Chapter 5
THUR 10/20	Art and business of production cont.	
SUN 10/23		EXAM 1 due by 11:59 pm – no late submissions accepted
WEEK 10		
TUE 10/25	Design Project Assignment Overview; Art and Business of Design - Costume	Read Chapter 10
THUR 10/27	Art and Business of Design – Costume cont. & Make Up	
WEEK 11		
TUE 11/1	Art and Business of Design – Scenic Design & Prop Design	
THUR 11/3	Art and Business of Design – Light Design & Sound Design	
<i>American Son by Christopher Demos-Brown 11/1 and 11/3 @7:30 pm & 11/5 @ 2pm</i> <i>Betrayal by Harold Pinter 11/2, 11/4 and 11/5 @7:30 pm</i>		
WEEK 12		
TUE 11/8	Ancient Theatre in Greece & Rome	Read Part III Theatre of Other Times & Places, pages 159-164, and Part IIIA Façade Stages, page 165; Key Terms Chapter 11 – page 184; Key Terms Chapter 12 – page 196
THUR 11/10	Medieval Theatre in Europe & a Renaissance	Read Part IIIB – Emblem, Environment, and Simultaneity, page 197-98; Key Terms Chapter 13 – page 211-12

WEEK 13		
TUE 11/15	Renaissance cont. Theatre & Reform	Key Terms Chapter 14 – page 228; Key Terms Chapter 15 – page 240; Key Terms Chapter 16 – page 254; Read Part IIIC – Illusionism, page 229;
THUR 11/17	Theatre & Reform; Global Theatre	Key Terms Chapter 17 – page 281; Key Terms Chapter 18 – page 301; Key Terms Chapter 20 – page 334; Read Chapter 21
<i>Antigone</i> adapted by Emily Mann from Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> – 11/17 & 11/18 @ 7:30 pm; 11/19 @ 2pm & 7:30 pm		
WEEK 14		
TUE 11/22	Global Theatre	Read Chapter 22
THUR 11/24	11/24-11/25 – THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
SUN 11/27	Last day to submit Play Response Assignment (by 11:59 pm)	
WEEK 15		
TUE 11/29	Design Presentations	Presentation materials due by end of class
THUR 12/1	Design Presentations	Presentation materials due by end of class
FRI 12/2	EXAM 2 available online by 12:01 am (covers materials from week 9-15)	
FINALS WEEK		
MON 12/5	EXAM 2 due by 11:59 pm – no late submissions accepted	