



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: THEA 1030 Introduction to Theatre

Section ID: 81372.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: Theatre will be explored philosophically and aesthetically through the practical application of drama in production. Emphasis is placed on the understanding and appreciation of the political and social aspects of theatre in our world. **F, S**

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: MW; 11:10AM - 12:35PM; HUM 147

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Jack Truman

Office Location: HUM 115

Office Hours: 9:00 - 11:00 M/W, 9:00 - 12:00 T/TH

Office Phone: 423-585-6958

Email: Jack.Truman@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Elissa Keck Hodge

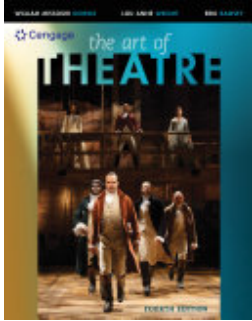
Supervisor Phone: 4235856951

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

The Art of Theatre: Then and Now

ISBN: 9781337517430

Authors: William Missouri Downs, Wright, Erik Ramsey



Publisher: Cengage Learning

Publication Date: 2016-10-05

Additional Information

Being registered and having paid for this course, you have access to the online version of this textbook. Please follow the directions found in our eLearn component of this class.

Supplemental or Optional Materials

Some additional material may be provided by the instructor. Some material may be required by the student to acquire on their own.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Theatre allows for a unique interdisciplinary vortex within the liberal arts context where history, religion, politics, philosophy, literature and the visual arts come together culminating in a whirlwind of enchantment and challenge. Through this course, we endeavor to experience various elements of production while promoting the cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural attributes of theatre throughout the millennia of human development. Furthermore, this course is intended to enhance an appreciation of theatre while exploring fundamental questions of value, meaning, and modes of theatrical expression from the Ancient Greeks through contemporary styles.
- Identify and describe the artistic, theoretical, historical and practical perspectives of theatre and performance as a global phenomenon; demonstrate foundational skills in the performing arts.
- Illustrate how theatre and performance is a collaborative process (Communication); recognize and identify different eras and disciplines in theatre
 - To be able to review and discuss the merits and faults of a theatrical production, to gain acquired knowledge of the art form
- -To be able to demonstrate an understanding to theatrical eras along with individual projects, as well as read and analyze theatrical works regarding their historical significance, as well as their ability to be performed on stage

- - To be able to defend your opinions on theatrical works regarding their historical significance.
- - To understand the connection between theatre and film
- - To gain knowledge of all forms of theatre
- - To gain self-confidence in presenting yourself professionally and personally, while understanding basic acting fundamentals and techniques. This objective is designed to sharpen concentration and focus
- - To develop the ability to read and analyze plays
 - To develop research skills necessary to create a character who may be from a different time, place, culture and lifestyle than the student
- - To explore human expression enabling you to create and perform a character in a dramatic scene or monologue, while using constructive criticism to further develop an acting role

Instructional Approach and Methods

Course information will be shared via class lectures, discussions and assignments. Active participation in topic discussions will prove advantageous to all class participants. Assignments are evaluated on written responses and active discourse.

THE RULES:

- Come to every class
- Do the work
- Respect each other
- **HAVE FUN!!!**

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

Learning outcomes will be assessed through critical analysis papers, performances, discussions (small group and class) and projects. For specifics, see grading scale and assignments section.

Performance

Although performing is not a primary focus of this course (as it would be in an acting class), performance, by its nature, is essential for understanding the participatory, collective and collaborative nature of theatre.

Discussion/Demonstrations/Projects

Each student is expected to participate in the class discussions of reading assignments, performances and peer/instruction led demonstrations of projects.

Grading Scale

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

GRADING:

This is a participation-based and individualized growth-oriented class. While learning about theatre and film, you will also learn basic information about performing, which is a form of everyday communication. A class in the appreciation of theatre can benefit other aspects of your life, both personally and professionally. You will be evaluated on the process and effort as well as the final product. This class is a supportive, cooperative environment where we learn by doing and learn from each other. Don't compare yourself with others.

Just do your personal best! Have fun!

Class Participation/Daily Assignments/Exercises.....	250 points
Play Papers.....	125 points
Monologue.....	100 points
Written work for monologue.....	25 points
Film Discussions.....	100 points
Written work for final.....	25 points

Theatre with Film paper.....	25 points
Theatre History Paper.....	50 points
Acting Style Paper.....	50 points
Final / Final Scene.....	100 points
<u>OF MICE AND MEN</u> view and critique.....	50 points
<u>OF MICE AND MEN</u> script analysis paper.....	50 points
<u>OF MICE AND MEN</u> discussion.....	50 points
 TOTAL.....	 1000 points

GRADING SCALE:

A = 1000 – 934 B- = 833 – 800 D+ = 699-667
A- = 933 – 900 C+ = 799 – 767 D = 666 – 634
B+ = 899 – 867 C = 766 – 734 D- = 633 – 600
B = 866 – 834 C- = 733 – 700 F = below 600

EXTRA CREDIT:

- You have 4 extra credit opportunities for a maximum total of 175 points.
- You may attend other local productions and receive extra credit by attending up to 3 of the other productions available in Morristown during the semester and write a short production critique (2 pages). **These papers are due the week after the show closes. No late papers will be accepted.** Each of these is worth 25 points.

Local Community Theaters to see shows:

Morristown Theatre Guild: <https://theatreguildinc.org>

Encore Theatrical Company: <https://www.encoretheatricalcompany.com>

Assignments

Assigned readings from text, plays and handouts, and *Of Mice and Men*

- Class discussions, exercises, improvisation, theatre games and activities; which will help you build self-confidence as you find new ways to express yourself. In-class participation is **mandatory** to pass this course!
- Papers:

Play Papers (5): You will read 5 plays from the history of theatre and turn in a 2 page, double spaced paper.

Of Mice and Men Paper: You will write a 2 page analysis/criticism paper of this play.

Theatre History Paper: Based on the different eras of theatre history, you will select one era and write a 2 page paper on that form of theatre history.

Acting Paper: You will select one form of an acting technique and write a short paper analyzing that form.

Film with Theatre Paper: You will write a short paper connecting theatre with film.

-Performance Projects:

Monologue: You will select, memorize and prepare a 1-2 minute monologue from a play of your choice. You will perform in front of the class, receive direction/critique, revise and return for a final graded performance to the class.

Final Scene: After being assigned partners, you will select, memorize, block & rehearse a 4-6 minute scene from a play of your choice. You will perform in front of the class, receive direction/critique, revise and return for a final graded performance to the class.

***** Options will be provided to write an analysis paper in exchange for acting performances if needed. Theatre is fun! Just relax and have fun!**

- Written work for monologue and scene performances. One page character analysis for monologue, and a 1-2 page play and character analysis for the final project.
- Read the play *Of Mice and Men* and demonstrate analytical skills with reading, writing and discussion
- View Fall Walters State Production, *Of Mice and Men* and write a short critique of the shows (Guidelines provided) – PLEASE NOTE: Failure to see this **required production** will result in a penalty of 100!

****Late assignments are not likely to be accepted. If exception is made, it will be by prior consent and at the instructor's discretion.**

Class Participation

In this course, we will be engaging in partner/group work, group and class discussion, group project work, and other collaborative efforts, therefore full participation and attendance is key. Please note that after three absences, your grade will be lowered by a deduction of attendance points. We value punctuality, therefore coming late to class will not be tolerated as it disrupts the learning experience for other students. Three late arrivals will be considered as one absence. Should you have extenuating circumstances that may affect your attendance, please reach out to the professor.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

Full and active participation is expected.

Covid Guidelines: Be respectful of the choices of others. Face masks are optional. Please maintain a 6 foot distance between yourself and others. ANTICIPATE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS BASED ON THE EVOLVING COVID SITUATION.

ATTENDANCE:

This is a performance-based class. Attendance is mandatory. Theatre is a collaborative art, and to learn to perform you must be here and participate. Much of the process of learning about acting involves interacting with your peers in class. Show a positive attitude and take an active role in all activities.

If you are absent, the following penalties apply:

0 absences +20 points 3 absences -20 points 6 absences -160 points

1 absence 0 points 4 absences -40 points 7 absences -320 points

2 absences -10 points 5 absences -80 points 8 absences -640 points

LATENESS:

Habitual lateness will be treated like absenteeism – if you are late at least once a week I will ask you to drop the class.

5-10 minutes/-5 points 11-20 minutes/-10 points

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH AND METHODS

- Readings
- Videos
- Discussions

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

All information can be found in the Course Syllabus and Class Schedule--pay attention to both documents.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.

- c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)
helpdesk.ws.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of

the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](#)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not

produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/set/

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)

General Notes

OFFICE HOURS:

I hold regular office hours to be available for any questions, concerns, or further explanation of class material. Most days I have commitments immediately before and after class, therefore not able to come early or stay late to class sessions. You are welcome to stop by during regular office hours, however to ensure that I am available, please schedule a time to see me during office hours. If you have conflicts during my regular office hours, we can arrange for an alternate meeting time.

GENERAL NOTES:

***No food or drinks allowed in class except bottled water.

*****ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING. Not even on silent.** Disruption of class by either will result in a penalty of -25 points. Turn your cell phone off!

If you bring a laptop to class, you are solely responsible for preventing its damage. Pack it safely to protect it during movement exercises, games and performances. If during class time you use the laptop for activities other than class work and notes, you will be required to shut it down and will not be permitted to bring the laptop to class again for the remainder of the semester.

Wear comfortable clothing suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.

*****All written assignments must be typed and formatted with the following guidelines or they will not be accepted:**

Plain white paper, 8.5"x11"

1 inch margins on all 4 sides.

Double spaced

Legible font such as Times New Roman, 12 point

Pages numbered at top right corner (Do not show number on page 1)

Pages stapled at top left corner

All papers at least 1 full page. Papers less than one full page will lose points.

Plays written for theater often contain strong language: profanities, violence, sexual terms or religious references. However, this class forbids work that promotes hate. Choose your scenes carefully.

The nature of acting and any acting course or performance includes physical contact from time to time with fellow students/actors. On occasion I may also have to adjust parts of your body for proper alignment and to release tension. However, you will never be touched if you don't want to be. Please see me privately if you are uncomfortable and need to discuss these issues.

Full costumes and realistic props are not required for monologues and scenes; however, you are to dress appropriately for a role. For example, a lawyer delivering a final summation in court will not deliver it in sweats and a t-shirt. You will find that dressing appropriately and having a prop to represent important objects in a scene will help you 'get into character'. Points will be deducted from the scores of monologues and scenes for inappropriate dress or a lack of needed props.

When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful; especially during performances!