



DRAM-1310-141CL
Theater Appreciation
Spring 2023, LRC Building #8, Room 131
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am-10:50am

Instructor Information:

Name: Sarah Sneesby
Email: ssneesby@com.edu
Phone: 409-933-8348

Student hours and location:

By appointment in-person or virtual. To make an appointment with me, please send me an email.

Required Textbook/Materials: There is no required textbook for this course

Course Description: A general survey of the major fields of theatre arts for students who have a limited experience or knowledge. The course emphasizes a mixture of hands-on experiences and history.

This course is a study and application of the various activities and methods of theatrical practice. It includes discussions, assignments, projects, and lectures designed to analyze and evaluate all aspects of the theatre experience: scripts, design, acting, directing, staging, history, and criticism. Attendance at representative plays is required.

Course requirements: (including description of any special projects or assignments)

<u>Daily Engagement/Attendance</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>The Grading Scale is as Follows:</u> <u>90-100 = A</u> <u>80-89 = B</u> <u>70-79 = C</u> <u>65-69 = D</u> <u>64-below = F</u>
<u>Play Reviews (2)</u>	<u>20%</u>	
<u>Quizzes/Video Assignments</u>	<u>20%</u>	
<u>Group Creative Project</u>	<u>20%</u>	
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>	

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Grades will be determined based on qualitative (projects) and quantitative (papers and exams) formulas. 20% of your grade will be based on answering direct questions on an exam based on presentations and hand-outs. 20% of your grade will be based on two written reviews. 60% of your grade will be determined by completion of group and individual projects, or quizzes, which demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts explored in the course.

Play Review Assignment Detail:

You must see a performance of the COM Theatre productions of *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim and *Donkey* by John Patrick Bray. You may see any preview or regular performance free of charge and you are welcome to bring a guest. There is no need to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list with the Box Office. To get credit for attending you MUST say you are in Sarah Sneesby's Theatre Class and sign next to your name.

Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Feb. 2-19, 2023 – review due uploaded on Brightspace by March 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

**Contains themes and elements of violence and adult language*

Donkey: April 20-May 7, 2023– review due uploaded on Brightspace by May 10th at 5:00 p.m. All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:00pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

The best reviews for this purpose are approximately three (3) typewritten, double-space pages. This is not a test of whether you have seen the production -- that is a given. It should be a discussion of what you experienced and how it affected you. The following is an OUTLINE of topics which should be addressed in your review. Your point of view and critical thinking skills will be the focus of your grade. I do not care what your opinions are; I care if you are clearly communicating your opinions with evidence that supports your claims (just like with a research paper).

- I. Introductory Paragraph, including play and title
- II. Dramatic Values a. Story/Plot (keep this part short) b. Theme/Idea
- III. Personal reaction (A brief paragraph stating honestly what you think about the play)
- IV. Production Values a. Scenery b. Lighting c. Costumes d. Sound (music, special effects, etc.)
- V. Evaluate the Acting (use actors' names provided in the program, not the characters' names)
- VI. Identify and Discuss Contributions of the Director
- VII. Conclusion

Group Creative Project Assignment Detail:

The purpose of this project is that students will try their hand at collaborating creatively on a theatre production proposal and carrying out required elements depending on the roles selected. Creating theatre is a group endeavor, both from a creative and a business perspective. The class will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned a play by the instructor. The group will present a unified production pitch for their assigned text for a panel of theatre producers (other faculty and guest artists). Production roles might include, but are not limited to: dramaturgy, set designer, actor, director, head of marketing, costume designer, sound designer, etc. Additional information concerning this project and specific role requirements will be provided on a handout later in the semester.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze theatre through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.	Communication, Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility	Play reviews, exams and experiential project-based assignments
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theatre history and dramatic works.	Communication, Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility	Quizzes, exams and experiential project-based assignments
3. Describe the collaborative nature of theatre arts.	Communication, Teamwork and Critical Thinking	Quizzes, exams and experiential project-based assignments
4. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.	Communication, Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility	Quizzes, exams and experiential project-based assignments

Content Disclosure

Courses within COM Theatre deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting, activating, triggering, or offensive to some students on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the course is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the course's practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course or speak with the instructor immediately. The instructor will provide more specific content disclosures before engaging with specific works.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Quizzes and video assignments automatically lose half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Make-up assignments are not permitted outside of emergency situations. Performances and group presentations cannot be made up due to scheduling.

Attendance Policy:

Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed **two (2)** absences before your final grade is affected. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to follow these policies, you need to speak with the instructor before being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID or Monkeypox, communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

The most important part of this class is showing up to the class. The in-class lectures and activities are the major tool for learning this craft. The student artist's questions and input are imperative to the learning process.

The student will receive an engagement grade for each class period on a point scale from “0” (lowest) to “5” (highest). These will add up to form the student’s Engagement grade for the semester. If absent, the grade is a “0” for the day. 5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F, 0=absent.

Engagement is not about simply going through the motions of “participation,” but requires you to be alert, prepared, and collaborative. To receive a 5 for the day, please offer either 2 questions or statements about the work in class. You can always email your comments or questions to the instructor should you wish to not speak out loud.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Academic Dishonesty: There is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. If using source materials in any project or assignment, please site the source! Quizzes and the Final exam are open note – but copies of previous terms quizzes (either in copy or note form) will not be allowed, and a zero will be given on that assessment.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact H. Russ Brown, Director of Theatre, at 409-933-8544 or hrussbrown@com.edu. If you are still not satisfied with that outcome, please contact the Chair of Fine Arts, Dr. Paul Boyd at 409-933-8342 or pboyd@com.edu.

Course outline:

This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and will be given the appropriate time and accommodations in the event of those changes.

Week 1-Introduction to class, syllabus review, and discuss What is Theatre
Audience and Etiquette

Week 2-Watch *Frankenstein*
Finish watching and formally discuss *Frankenstein*

Week 3- Western European Theatre History Survey
Survey of NonWestern European Theatre
Quiz #1 Thursday

Week 4-Exploring Theatre Video Assignment – Due End of Day Tuesday
Theatre Spaces
Quiz #2 due Thursday

Week 5- The Actor
Encountering Text work: Creating Character

Week 6- Movement for the Actor
Quiz #3 Due Thursday

Week 7-The Director
Collaborative Storytelling (Possible Puppet Work)
Quiz #4 Thursday

Week 8-Jigsaw assignment
Quiz #5 Thursday
Discuss Final Group Project and midterm evaluations

Week 9-Scenery
Costumes

Week 10-Exploring Theatre Part 2 (counts as Quiz #6, due by end of class Thursday)
Lighting

Week 11-Idea Board/Collage Rendering due Monday by the end of class

Week 12-PhysicalTheatre
Physical Theatre

Week 13- Physical Theatre Group Performances (counts as Quiz #7, due in class)
Work on Final Group Creative Projects in class

Week 14- Time to Work on Group creative projects

Week 15- Final Group Project Presentations
Final peer evaluations and presentation materials due at presentation

Week 16-Staged Fighting, Staged Intimacy, and Final exam
Tuesday, May 9 - Quiz 8 is Fight Work
Thrusday May 11- Final Exam

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [Student Handbook 2022-2023 v4.pdf \(com.edu\)](#). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact [Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu](#). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 3.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.