



DRAM 1310.140CL(7458)
Theater Appreciation
Fall 2023
9:30am – 10:50am / M-W
Learning Resource Center – Bldg #8, Room 131

Instructor Information:

Name: Molly Vernon
 Email: mvernon@com.edu
 Phone: 713.894.3158

Student hours and location:

By scheduled appointment only (F2F or Zoom).

Required Textbook/Materials: There is no required text for this class.

Course Description: Survey of theatre, including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to other art forms. Participation in productions may be required. Prerequisite: Eligible for ENGL 1301. This course fulfills the Fine Arts credit in the core curriculum.

Course requirements: Discussion, presentations, quizzes, play reviews, and projects as assigned.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Attendance/Participation	25%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Creative Projects	25%	
Play Reviews	25%	
Tests	25%	

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

Quizzes and video assignments automatically lose half a letter grade each day the assignment is late. Make-up assignments are not permitted outside of emergencies. 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 must speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If COVID or Monkeypox impacts you, communicate with your instructor immediately, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

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.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze theater through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.	Critical Thinking	Exams & Play Reviews
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theater history and dramatic works.	Critical Thinking & Social Responsibility	Presentations & Group Projects
3. Describe the collaborative nature of theater arts.	Critical Thinking & Communication	Performances & Projects
4. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.	Critical Thinking & Community Engagement	Presentations & Exams

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty shall violate these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. “Cheating on a test” shall include:

- a. Copying from another student’s test paper.
- b. Using test material not authorized by the person administering the test.
- c. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- d. Using AI tools to create work for class.

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.

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

Course outline:

DRAMA 1310 - Theatre Appreciation Course Outline		
W 1	28-Aug	Syllabus, Introductions, Class Design, 1 st Day Quiz
	30-Aug	Intro to theatre, Theatre and You (observation, warmups)
W 2	4-Sep	HOLIDAY
	6-Sep	Improvisation (project), How to Review a Play
W 3	11-Sep	Audience Etiquette, Good vs Bad Behavior Skits
	13-Sep	Types of Theatre & Stage Directions
W 4	18-Sep	Open Scenes incorporating Stage Directions, Types of Theatre, Ensemble
	20-Sep	Storytelling & Dramatic Structure
W 5	25-Sep	Creating a Play, Playwrighting
	27-Sep	Writing Project in class, The Best Worst That Can Happen Play Review Due
W 6	2-Oct	Script due, Rehearse Class Play
	4-Oct	Rehearse Class Play
W 7	9-Oct	Perform Plays
	10-Oct	Perform Plays (Project)
W 8	16-Oct	The Dawn of Theatre, Middle Ages (History)
	18-Oct	1800s to Present Day (History)
W 9	23-Oct	Set Design and Construction, Props
	25-Oct	Lighting and Sound Design
W 10	30-Oct	Pick Play for Design (Project)
	1-Nov	Design Work
W 11	6-Nov	Present Design
	8-Nov	Musical Theatre and Other Forms
W 12	13-Nov	Film, Television, Electronic Media
	15-Nov	Digital Media (Project)
W 13	20-Nov	Acting
	22-Nov	Monologue Work
W 14	27-Nov	Scenes for Two Actors
	29-Nov	Scenes for Mixed Groups
W 15	4-Dec	Rehearse
	6-Dec	Perform (Performance Project)
W 16	11-Dec	Finals Week
	13-Dec	Finals Week

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 https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *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 October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 7.

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.