



DRAM-1310-142H2
Theater Appreciation
Fall 2025

11am-12:20pm T,Th Learning Resource Center-Bldg #8 Rm 131

Instructor Information: Cheramie Hopper, chopper@com.edu, 409-933-8709

Student hours and location: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, Wednesday 1-4pm, Friday 9-12pm Fine Arts Building Room 103

Required Textbook/Materials: *What is Theatre? An Introduction and Exploration* by John Brown

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: Online activities and discussion, presentations, quizzes, play reviews, and projects as assigned.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Attendance/Online Engagement	20%	Grading Scale:
Discussions	20%	90-100 = A
Presentations	20%	80-89 = B
Play Critiques	20%	70-79 = C
Final Creative Project	20%	65-69 = D
		64-Below = F

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.

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze theater through written responses to play texts and/or live performances.	Critical Thinking	Exams & Play Reviews
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theater history and dramatic works.	Critical Thinking & Social Responsibility	Presentations, Quizzes, Online Discussion and Responses, Group Projects
3. Describe and demonstrate the collaborative nature of theater arts.	Critical Thinking & Communication	Online Discussions, Projects, & Performances
4. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.	Critical Thinking & Community Engagement	Presentations, Quizzes, Discussions
5. Develop a personal appreciation of theater and understand the complex relationship between live performance and society	Content & Critical Thinking	Online Discussion, Quizzes, Projects

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of 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 Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair, at 409-933-8255 or kjantz@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 accommodation in the event of those changes.

W 1	Syllabus & Introductions, Ice Breakers & Expectations
	Intro to theatre - Roles in theatre/ How theatre is produced
W 2	Project on Roles in Theatre Due (Present in class) & Audience Etiquette
	Types of Theatre & Stage Directions
W 3	Audience Etiquette/ Good vs Bad Behavior Skits & Open Scenes incorporating Stage Directions Types of Theatre
	Storytelling & Dramatic Structure
W 4	Dramatic Structure Quiz
	Greeks Beginning of Everything
W 5	Discuss & Work on Greek Theatre Project in Class
	Rehearse Greek Plays
W 6	Rehearse Greek Plays
	Perform Plays
W 7	Pick Play for Design Project
	Discuss Play & Design Project
W 8	Design Project
	Final Design Presentation

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/student-handbook.html> *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 accommodation(s) is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement: The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.