

Gulf Coast State College

<http://gulfcoast.edu>

1-800-311-3685

Division of Visual and Performing Arts

**UNDERSTANDING THEATRE**

**THE2000, 3 credit hours**

**Fall 2023**

**10/16-12/15**

Class Meets: ONLINE

Instructor: Anna Fisher, Adjunct Professor of Theatre

Contact info: [afisher6@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:afisher6@gulfcoast.edu)

Office Hours: *The best way to contact me is through Canvas email.*

**Course Description:** An introduction to theatre with emphasis on the performer/audience relationship. Theatrical styles, dramatic structure, technical design, acting techniques, and criticism studied within a framework of aesthetic exchange between the actors and their audience.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course students should begin to:

- develop the ability to synthesize and integrate information and ideas more effectively.
- develop the ability to think creatively.
- develop openness to new ideas.
- develop aesthetic appreciations.
- develop an informed appreciation of other cultures.
- improve ability to organize and use time effectively.
- develop respect for others.
- develop capacity to think for one's self.
- identify and use basic theatre terminology.
- recognize the roles and responsibilities of various theatre professionals.
- identify theatrical developments within historical contexts.
- identify types of theaters as well as their infrastructures.
- identify the production elements of theatre.
- understand the cost and budgetary concerns in profit vs. non-profit theatres.
- distinguish the characteristics of theatre forms from around the world.
- write an effective performance critique.

**Required Text:**

*The Theatre Experience, 15<sup>th</sup> edition* by Edwin Wilson; ISBN: 978-0-07-351427-7

**Course Info:**

- This course utilizes CANVAS. On the homepage for this course you will find important course documents/lecture notes and will be able to keep track of your grades, communicate directly with the instructor and **take all of your exams**. It is important to have access to a computer with reliable internet access. If you have a slow dial up connection you may need to arrange to take your exams at school in the library or computer lab. **Failed technology will not be an acceptable excuse for missing an exam. Attention MAC users: Canvas needs FIREFOX to run most effectively. This is a free download. See the main Canvas page under FAQs for more info.**

Attendance & Withdrawal Policy	
<b>Attendance:</b>	Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.
<b>Student Withdrawals:</b>	Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W”.
<b>Consequences of Withdrawals:</b>	Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

**Attendance**

**This class is asynchronous.** The student may progress on their own time in certain modules as long as they submit the assignments by the due date.

If you stop attending class and do not withdraw yourself by the withdrawal date you will receive an “F” in the course. Faculty no longer withdraws students.

- **All exams will be given online.** Pay close attention to the window of time in which the exam is available. **A word of advice:** *The exams draw heavily from the material in the text. The activities/discussions cover broad concepts and ideas and are meant to enhance the reading not be a substitute for them.*

- Students are responsible for appropriate student conduct as outlined in the student handbook (available on the GCSC website). Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be reported to the administration. The online exams are open book/notes.
- **I do not accept late submission of assignments. Please give yourself ample time to submit assignments in case of failed technology. Failed technology is not an excuse for missing assignments.**
- **Students are required to see one theatre production on or off campus this semester and write a critique.** Please see CANVAS for critique guidelines. On campus performances are free with a student ID. If you cannot attend any of these dates see the instructor in advance for other options.

#### **Laptop / Personal Technology Policy**

Students may use laptops in classes for note-taking purposes only. Other uses of laptop computers during class are prohibited. No laptops may be used during a test or while going over a test's answers, without the explicit permission of the instructor.

#### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

### **Accessibility Statement**

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Assignments/Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	30%
Final Project	30%

### **GCSC Grading Scale:**

<b>90%-100%:</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80%-89%:</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70%-79%:</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>60%-69%:</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Below 59%:</b>	<b>F</b>

### **Tentative Weekly Schedule**

**\*Subject to change, Announcements of updated schedule will be made through Canvas or Email.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class Activity</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment/Due Date</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Read syllabus, take syllabus quiz Lecture: Chapter 1 <i>The Audience</i> Lecture: Chapter 2 <i>Background and Expectations of the Audience</i>	<u>October 22, 11:00pm</u> <b>Syllabus quiz due</b> <b>Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Quizzes</b>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class Activity</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment/Due Date</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	Lecture: Chapter 3 <i>Theatre Spaces</i> Lecture: Chapter 4 <i>Acting for the Stage</i>	<u>October 29 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 3 and 4 Quizzes</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	Lecture: Chapter 5 <i>The Director and The Producer</i> Lecture: Chapter 6 <i>Scenery</i>	<u>November 5 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 5 and 6 Quizzes</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Lecture: Chapter 7 <i>Costumes</i>  Lecture: Chapter 8 <i>Lighting and Sound</i>	<u>November 12 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 7 and 8 Quizzes</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	Lecture: Chapter 9 <i>Creating the World of the Play</i> Lecture: Chapter 10 <i>Dramatic Structure and Dramatic Characters</i>	<u>November 19 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 9 and 10 Quizzes</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break: Nov 23-26</b>  Lecture: Chapter 11 <i>Theatre Genres</i>  Video A Midsummer Night's Dream	<u>November 27 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 11 Quiz</b> <b>Midsummer Critique Due</b>
<b>Week</b>	Lecture: Chapter 12 <i>Alternative and Experimental Dramatic and Theatrical Forms</i>  Lecture: Chapter 13 <i>Diverse and Inclusive Plays, Playwrights, and Theatrical Forms</i>	<u>December 3 11:00pm</u> <b>Chapter 12 and 13 Quizzes</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	Submit Final Project	<b>Final Project Due December 10</b>
	Complete Final Exam on Canvas	<b>Final Exam Due December 13</b>