Understanding Theatre
Gulf Coast State College

Course Information

Course Title: Understanding Theatre

Course Number: THE 2000

CRN: 84592

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: 3

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: None

Semester/Year: Fall 2025

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Brian J. Baillif

Credentials: Master of Fine Art Scenic Design and Technical Production (University of Alabama), Master of Library and Information Studies (University of Alabama), Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design (Auburn University).

Office Phone: 850-769-1551 extension 4865

Email: bbaillif@gulfcoast.edu

Division Chair contact information: Dr. Jennifer McAtee
Email: jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850-872-8337

VPA Administrative Assistant: Danyelle Vanderheide
Email: dvanderheide@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850-769-1551-3886

Approved Course Materials & Resources

Title: *The Theatre Experience, 2025 Release*
Author: Edwin Wilson, Alvin Goldfarb
Publisher: McGraw Hill, 2025
ISBN: 9781266417542

- **Required Textbook**:
  Wilson, Edwin, and Alvin Goldfarb. *The Theatre Experience*. McGraw Hill, 2025.
  ISBN: 9781266417542

Required Materials: none.

Curriculum

Course Description: (Offered fall, spring and summer). In this course, students will explore dramatic structure, techniques, and various organizational elements. The course provides an introduction to theatre as a collaborative art form through the critical analysis of its historical context, production, theory and connections to theatrical literature, including the Western canon.

Section information text:
Online classes may require proctored exams which can be taken for free at any GCSC campus or with the use of testing software for online exams. Please see testing services for all available options. (Offered fall, spring, and summer). (Meets Fine Arts Humanities requirement). Introduction to theatre with stress 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.

Course Content Delivery: Reading Assignments, Online Quizes and exams, Online Discussion Posts, Written critiques of recorded theatrical productions.

Broad Goals of the Course: Students will be introduced to the 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.

Approved Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will identify the basic principles of theatrical performance, design, technology, organization, and management.
2. Students will assess the significance of the human condition as expressed through the performing arts.
3. Students will explore and interpret works of art utilizing creative and critical thinking skills.
4. Students will demonstrate college-level writing.

5. Students will define, compare, and contrast theatre as both an expressive art form and a commercial industry.

Student Expectations of the Instructor

Contact Response Time: Due to the nature of theatrical production I am frequently in the scene shop when outside of my class and office hours, consequently, I am often unable to check my voicemail or email outside of my office hours. I attempt to respond to all emails within 24 hours (not including weekends); however, if I have not responded to your email within two workdays, please attempt to contact me again. The Canvas Mail system and my Gulf Coast State College email (bbaillif@gulfcoast.edu) are the official methods of contact for this class, please do not rely on voicemail.

If contacting me via bbaillif@gulfcoast.edu please be sure to include your name, what class you are contacting me about, the time the class meets, and the best method to contact you back.

Learning Management System Usage for this course (required for student evaluations): Canvas

Expectations of the Student

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 it 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 incidence 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. Please see the current *Student Handbook* for the full College policy on Academic Integrity.

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 accommodation can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodation, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording of Lectures:

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook

Attendance Policy:

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.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. (See entry on Withdrawal in this catalog section.) Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy: 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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the college catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W". The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

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- **Administrative Withdrawal** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W". The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm. Please see the **Withdrawals** policy in the GCSC Catalog for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy: To receive a grade of "I" (for "Incomplete") in a class, the student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last day of the course. The "Incomplete" option is only intended to help students who have an emergency arise in the last two weeks of the class that prevents them from finishing all work. The "Incomplete" provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an "F".

Homework and Late Grading Policy: You are expected to have completed any reading, video, or homework assignments before class begins on the day they are due. Late assignments, projects, and test will have their overall grade reduced by 5% for each day past the turn in date, or a maximum deduction of 50%.

Netiquette Policy: "Netiquette" is the term used to describe rules of courtesy in using electronic communication. These rules are intended to help use the medium effectively and considerately. The ideas below are intended to help with electronic class discussion.
When communicating in an online course you are addressing a group of people. The following guidelines will help you to communicate effectively.

- Don't say things that you wouldn't say in a face-to-face environment, or in any public place.
- Don't share confidential information.
- Use the subject line to identify the content of the message.
- Stay up-to-date on forum postings by reading them regularly.
- Always comply with copyright by citing your references when posting online content.
- Use individual e-mail for messages to individuals rather than tying up the group list.
- Do not forward emails or discussion forum postings without asking permission to from the original author.
- Electronic communication does not provide visual cues, such as smiles or frowns that face-to-face communication allows. Therefore, humor and/or sarcasm in

written text might be misunderstood and interpreted as rude or inflammatory in the online environment. Choose your words carefully to avoid hurting, or angering anyone. Should emotions become inflamed, do not promote the anger. Take a cooling down period, perhaps overnight, before you engage in the online activity again.

- Avoid using all capital letters in your text. This is considered 'shouting' in the online classroom.
- Aim for clarity and readability in your text.
- Use proper English and remember to spell check.
- If you do not understand the assignment's directions or the posts of your classmates don't be afraid to ask for clarification.
- The online classroom is a community of learners. Participate actively in the community and reach out to your classmates with a helping hand.

Artificial Intelligence in Written Assignments: The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including but not limited to machine learning models, text generators, or any other AI-driven content creation tools, is strictly prohibited in the preparation and submission of written assignments for this course. This policy is to ensure academic integrity and the originality of student work. All work submitted must be the student's own, and any form of AI-generated content will be considered a violation of academic honesty policies.

It is your responsibility as a student to understand what constitutes AI-generated content and to abstain from using such resources in your coursework. If you are unsure about a tool or method, please seek clarification from the instructor before proceeding.

Violations of this policy will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, a grade of zero for the assignment, reporting to academic affairs, or other consequences as outlined in the school's academic integrity policy.

Submission Format for Written Assignments: All written assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word document format (.doc or .docx). Submissions in other formats, including but not limited to PDF, plain text, Pages, or any other document formats, will not be accepted. This requirement ensures consistency in document handling and grading.

As a reminder, all students have access to the web version of Microsoft Office 365 through the Canvas Learning Management System. You are encouraged to utilize this resource for your assignments.

Failure to comply with the prescribed submission format may result in a grade penalty or the assignment being returned ungraded. Please ensure that all written work is submitted as a Microsoft Word document to avoid any issues.

Technology & Skill Requirements: Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

For Canvas, passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the IT Service Help Desk. Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.

Additional Requirements:
- Computer & Internet Access
- Office 365 (as a GCSC student you have free access to Office 365)
- English writing competency

Measure of Student Performance

Method of Assessment

Summary of Graded Work

Graded Area	% of Final Grade
Papers and Discussion Post	40%
Chapter Quizzes	40%
Final Exam	20%

GCSC grading scale: A: 90 – 100%, B: 80 – 89%, C: 70 – 79%, D: 60 – 69%, F: 59% and below