

202508-Hnrs Undrstnd Theatre-85351

Course Syllabus

Honors THE 2000 Understanding Theatre

Fall 2025

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Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Students will identify the basic principles of theatrical performance, design, technology, organization, and management.
- Students will assess the significance of the human condition as expressed through the performing arts.
- Students will explore and interpret works of theatre utilizing creative and critical thinking skills.
- Students will demonstrate college-level writing.
- Students will define, compare, and contrast theatre as both an expressive art form and a commercial industry
- Identify and use basic theatre terminology
- identify theatrical developments within historical contexts.
- identify types of theaters as well as their infrastructures.
- identify the production elements of theatre.
- distinguish the characteristics of theatre forms from around the world.



Course Description

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. Students will research and do presentations about theater topics and designers.



Course & Instructor Details

Course Information

CRN: 85351

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Classroom Location: Student Union West (SUW) 268

Class Days and Times: Monday & Wednesday 9:30am to 10:45am

Textbooks & Required Materials

Required Textbook:

Title: The Theatre Experience, 2025 Release

Author: Alvin Goldfarb & Megan Geigner

Publisher: McGraw Hill

ISBN: 9781266417542 (Loose Leaf)

E-Book: Choose the 180 day rental option (Link Coming Soon)

Additional Required Materials: None

Contact Information:



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🎓 Teacher
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🏛 Amelia Tapper Center for the Arts Office Room #118
🕒 Office Hours: By Appointment or Monday & Wednesday 9am to 9:15am

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Contact Response Time: Due to the nature of theatrical production I will be 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 (eburger@gulfcoast.edu) are the official methods of contact for this class, *please do not rely on voicemail.*

If contacting me via eburger@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.

The Administrative Assistant for the Division of Visual and Performing Arts is Danyelle Vanderheide. She can be contacted by phone at: (850) 827-3886 or via email at: dvanderhe@gulfcoast.edu (<mailto:dalexand2@gulfcoast.edu>).

The Chairperson of the Division of Visual and Performing Arts is Dr. Jennifer McAtee. She can be contacted by phone at: (850) 872-3887 or via email at: jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu (<mailto:jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu>).



Policies & Statements

Student 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 or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance

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.

Unexcused Absences

This course has a mandatory attendance policy. Any student with four or more unexcused absences may receive a grade of "F" or "W" at the instructor's discretion.

Student Withdrawals

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".

Consequences of Withdrawals



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.).

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".

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.

Policy on the Use of 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.

Lecture Recording Policy

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 on pages 35 in the GCSC Student Handbook: [Student Handbook 2024-2025](https://ousearch.omniupdate.com/texis/search/redir.html?query=student+handbook&pr=gulfcoast&prox=page&rorder=500&rprox=750&rdfreq=500&rwfreq=7students/documents/student-handbooks/2024-2025-student-handbook.pdf%23search%3Dstudent%2520handbook&redirKey=60b43e9a8e08b3cb364b3abc26d6)
[\(.https://ousearch.omniupdate.com/texis/search/redir.html?query=student+handbook&pr=gulfcoast&prox=page&rorder=500&rprox=750&rdfreq=500&rwfreq=7students/documents/student-handbooks/2024-2025-student-handbook.pdf%23search%3Dstudent%2520handbook&redirKey=60b43e9a8e08b3cb364b3abc26d6](https://ousearch.omniupdate.com/texis/search/redir.html?query=student+handbook&pr=gulfcoast&prox=page&rorder=500&rprox=750&rdfreq=500&rwfreq=7students/documents/student-handbooks/2024-2025-student-handbook.pdf%23search%3Dstudent%2520handbook&redirKey=60b43e9a8e08b3cb364b3abc26d6)

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

"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.




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

- The library has computers for student use during the building hours. Link to library - <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/library/index.html> 
(<https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/library/index.html>)
- Office 365 (as a GCSC student you have free access to Office 365 via the left hand navigation menu.
- English writing competency

• 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.



Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade Scheme Breakdown

Grade	Range
A	90% to 100%
B	80% to < 90%
C	70% to < 80%
D	60% to < 70%
F	0.01% to < 60%
I	0% to < 0.01%






Grade Breakdown:

Graded Area	% of Final Grade
Attendance	10%
Papers and Discussion Post	30%
Chapter Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	30%

Course Navigation

You can use the links at the top of each page (Start Here, Table of Contents, Modules, and Additional Resources) to navigate the major sections of the course. You will need to complete the orientation before being granted access to Part 1. Likewise, you will need to complete Part 1 before you are given access to Part 2, and so on.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Aug 13, 2025	 Introductions Discussion Post (https://gcsc.instructure.com/courses/31934/assignments/677218)	due by 11:59pm
	 Syllabus Quiz (https://gcsc.instructure.com/courses/31934/assignments/677203)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 15, 2025	 Chapter 1 Reading Assignment (https://gcsc.instructure.com/courses/31934/assignments/677220)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 18, 2025	 Chapter 1 Quiz (https://gcsc.instructure.com/courses/31934/assignments/677208)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Aug 19, 2025	 No Class on Tuesday, Jan 21 (https://gcsc.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=255688&include_contexts=course_31934)	12am