



Understanding Theatre

Gulf Coast State College

Course Information

Course Title: Understanding Theatre

Course Number: THE2000

CRN: 85443

Credit hours: 3

Contact hours: 3

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: N/A

Semester/Year: Fall 2025

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Laura Sebastian

Credentials:

MFA Acting – West Virginia University

BA Theatre – Wisconsin Lutheran College

Office Phone: 850-872-3886

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Division Chair contact information: Dr. Jennifer McAtee

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Approved Course Materials & Resources

Textbook Information: *The Theatre Experience, 2025 Version* by Edwin Wilson; ISBN: 978-0-07-351427-7

Required Materials: Textbook, a way to take notes, access to Canvas

Curriculum

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.

Course Content Delivery: Web-based, Lecture, discussion, quizzes, project.

Broad Goals of the Course: Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of theatre as an artform, attend a theatre production and form opinions and critiques.

Approved 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.

Student Expectations of the Instructor

Statement about availability outside of class – office hours:

The instructor checks email throughout the day and when off campus. The instructor only checks voicemail when on campus.

Email/voicemail response time of the instructor: Email 2 hours, Voicemail 24 hours.

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 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 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 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.

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:

This class is web based.

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.
- 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.

Measure of Student Performance

Method of Assessment

Class participation, writing assignments, quizzes, discussions, final project.

Summary of Graded Work

Assignments	Points (or weight)	Totals
Attendance/participation	20%	
Recorded Production Critique	10%	
Final Creative Project	30%	
Live Performance Critique	10%	
Quizzes	20%	
Final Exam	10%	
		100%

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