

# Understanding Theatre Syllabus

## Course Description

Catalog Description: THE 2000

CRN: 15353

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites: N/A

## Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- **CO1.** Students will identify the basic principles of theatrical performance, design, technology, organization and management.
- **CO2.** Students will assess the significance of the human condition as expressed through the performing arts.
- **CO3.** Students will explore and interpret works of art utilizing creative and critical thinking skills.
- **CO4.** Students will demonstrate college-level writing.
- **CO5.** Students will define, compare, and contrast theatre as both an expressive art form and a commercial history.

## Instructor Information

Laura Sebastian

Adjunct - Professor of Theatre

MFA University of Tennessee

Email: [lsebastia@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:lsebastia@gulfcoast.edu) **This is the best way to contact me.**

Main Office Phone: 850.872.3886

## Textbook & Reading Materials

*The Theatre Experience, 2025 RELEASE* by Alvin Goldfarb, Megan Geigner, Edwin Wilson, ; ISBN: 978-1-266-29835-5

## Communication & Feedback

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours.

## **Student Expectations**

Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus and any additional instructions provided by the instructor and Gulf Coast State College.

Maintain regular contact with the instructor and class through GCSC email or other designated communication channels.

Actively participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete exams in a timely manner.

## **Instructor's Plan**

Provide timely feedback on assignments and submissions.

Respond to emails/messages within 48 business hours (excluding weekends) unless noted otherwise.

## **Technology Support & Privacy**

### **Course Technology & Support**

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** [Up-to-date web browser](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the [system requirements](#)

- [Links to an external site.](#) for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software :** Available for [free download](#)
- [Links to an external site.](#) through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the [ITS Help Desk](#)

[Links to an external site.](#), available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

## Privacy & Accessibility

At Gulf Coast State College, we prioritize student privacy and accessibility. For this course, we ensure that all technologies used are accessible and compatible with diverse learner needs. Approved third-party tools in our courses are vetted by the college to protect and secure student data. Please visit each vendor's privacy and accessibility policies to learn more. If you need assistance, please contact [online@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:online@gulfcoast.edu).

## Learner Support

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the [academic and student support resources](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) provided at GCSC.

## Writing & Reading Lab

The GCSC Writing and Reading Lab is available to support the achievement of our students' academic and professional goals. Our staff is happy to provide tutoring for any courses that require assignments in academic writing and reading at any stage including understanding assignment instructions and brainstorming essay ideas. We also offer Spanish tutoring both online and in-person. Furthermore, our tutors are available for assistance with:

- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Essay development and organization
- Reading comprehension
- MLA, APA, and Chicago formatting

We can help with other writing-intensive courses such as speech, literature, religion, ethics, psychology, history, etc.

**In-person tutoring is available in Room 108 and 110 of the Rosenwald Classroom Building.** Students receiving in-person tutoring do not have to make appointments to receive services and are seen on a first-come first-served basis. The Writing and Reading Lab offers a space for group discussion and study in the main room (RC 108) and a quiet room (RC 110) for independent study and computer lab usage.

**Online tutoring is available through Zoom.** Students can [use this link to access the virtual tutoring room](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) All in-person services can be accessed through online tutoring, and both English and Spanish tutoring are available online.

The Writing and Reading Lab strives for student accessibility and offers a wheelchair-accessible student desk, headphones, and web cameras. For additional accommodations, please contact us.

## Testing Center Proctored Exam Instructions

For any test taken at the Testing Center, students will need to [register on GCSC Register Blast](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) . *Students must register all tests 72 hours in advance of taking the exam* to secure their seats and provide time for testing materials to be sent to the Testing Center; the system will not let students register otherwise. Once on GCSC RegisterBlast, students will have the option of testing at the Gulf/Franklin Campus in Port St. Joe, FL or at the main campus in Panama City, FL.

If a student has any questions or issues with scheduling, they may contact the Testing Center at 850-769-1551, ext. 5807 or [testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu) .

## Off-campus Proctored Exam Instructions

All distance learning students who are required by their instructors to have a Proctored Exam must complete an [Off-campus Proctored Exam request form](#)

[Links to an external site.](#).

Both the College and Testing Center policy states, “ *all students who reside in either Bay, Gulf or Franklin County must take their proctored exams at the Testing Centers at Gulf Coast State College either at the Panama City Campus or the Gulf-Franklin Campus in Port St. Joe .*”

All students are responsible for finding their own acceptable off-campus proctor. The Testing Center may be consulted, but it is the student’s responsibility overall. If a student has any questions or concerns, they may contact the Testing Center at 850-873-3594 or [testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu) .

## Print Management/PaperCut

The PaperCut print management client is installed in all computer labs. The PaperCut user web console is accessed through the MyGCSC portal. The logon is the first part of your student email address, everything before the **@mygulfcoast.edu**. Students will be required to add money to their PaperCut accounts before they are able to print. Money can be added to student print accounts by cash, credit, or debit card. Cash is accepted at PaperCut kiosks located in the library. Credit and debit card payments, minimum \$5.00, can be made through the “add credit” tab on the PaperCut user web console. [Instructions for the use of PaperCut are located here.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

## Syllabus, Course, & Institutional Policies

### Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

## **Course Policy**

### **Method of Evaluation**

Methods of evaluation include participation in class discussions, regular attendance, quizzes, and oral presentations.

**ALL EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN ONLINE THROUGH CANVAS.**

### **Assignment of Grades**

#### **Grading Breakdown:**

Attendance	10%
Discussion	20%
Assignments	30%
Exams	30%
Final Cumulative Exam	10%

#### **Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure:**

Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., Paper Rater or Spell Check Plus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

## **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. 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.

## **Late Work and Make-Up Work Policy**

Late work is not accepted. Make-up work is allowed on a case by case basis. The student must contact the instructor prior to a due date, or have proof of absence.

## **Discrimination Policy**

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Lee Wood, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-872-3302. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## **Institutional Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

1. 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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

2. Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

**"Cheating"**

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

**"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 as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

**"Self-plagiarism"**

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

**"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"**

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

## **Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

### ***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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- Student Withdrawal (W1) - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form 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 (W2) – 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.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

### ***Incomplete Grades***

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

**Important Note:** The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.

### **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

### **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. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

## Classroom Recording

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.

## Course Summary:

	Course Summary	
Date	Details	Due
<b>Sun Aug 24, 2025</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 1 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 1: The Audience Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Syllabus Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Aug 31, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 2: Background of The Audience Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 2 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Sep 7, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 3: Theatre Spaces Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment <a href="#">Chapter 3 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Sep 14, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">On Broadway</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Sep 21, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 4: Acting Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 4 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Sep 28, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 5: Directing Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 5 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Oct 5, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 6: Scenery - Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm

## Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 6 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Oct 12, 2025</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 7 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 7: Costumes Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Oct 19, 2025</b>	Assignment <a href="#">A Midsummer Night's Dream Critique</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Tue Oct 21, 2025</b>	Assignment <a href="#">Final Project Topics For Approval - DUE OCT 21st</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Oct 26, 2025</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 8 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 8: Lighting and Sound Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Tue Nov 4, 2025</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 9 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 9: Quiz Creating The World of the Play</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Nov 9, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 10: Dramatic Structure Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 10 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Nov 16, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Chapter 11: Theatre Genres Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 11 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Nov 23, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Ch. 12 Alternative and Experimental Drama Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 12 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Nov 30, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Ch. 13 Diverse and Inclusive Plays, Playwrights and Drama Multiple Choice Quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 13 Discussion</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Tue Dec 2, 2025</b>	Assignment <a href="#">Final Project</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Thu Dec 4, 2025</b>	Assignment <a href="#">Performance Critique Paper (Extra Credit)</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Sun Dec 7, 2025</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Final Exam</a>	due by 11:59pm

November 2025

Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 October 2025 26 Previous month Click to view event details	27 October 2025 27 Previous month	28 October 2025 28 Previous month	29 October 2025 29 Previous month	30 October 2025 30 Previous month	31 October 2025 31 Previous month	1 November 2025 1
2 November 2025 2	3 November 2025 3	4 November 2025 4 Click to view event details	5 November 2025 5	6 November 2025 6	7 November 2025 7	8 November 2025 8
9 November 2025 9 Click to view event details	10 November 2025 10 Today	11 November 2025 11	12 November 2025 12	13 November 2025 13	14 November 2025 14	15 November 2025 15
16 November 2025 16 Click to view event details	17 November 2025 17	18 November 2025 18	19 November 2025 19	20 November 2025 20	21 November 2025 21	22 November 2025 22
23 November 2025 23 Click to view event details	24 November 2025 24	25 November 2025 25	26 November 2025 26	27 November 2025 27	28 November 2025 28	29 November 2025 29
30 November 2025 30 Click to view event details	1 December 2025 1 Previous month	2 December 2025 2 Previous month Click to view event details	3 December 2025 3 Previous month	4 December 2025 4 Previous month Click to view event details	5 December 2025 5 Previous month	6 December 2025 6 Previous month

## Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Assignments	70%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	10%