
TH 141: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Prof. Debbie Swann

Email: Debbie.swann@colostate.edu

Email: Canvas Inbox or instructor-preferred email address (Responses to email will be provided within 36 hours during weekdays.)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Need technical assistance with your online course? Try the following:

- Visit the [Canvas Student Resources](#) for guides and videos.
- Visit [Central I.T. Technical Support Helpdesk](#) for technical support.
- Call 970-491-7276.
- Email [Help Desk Support](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of theatre as an *art form* and one of the *humanities*, its impact on society, and its relationship to other art forms.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Art of Entertainment: An Introduction to Theatre by Debbie Swann

Included with publication is a 6-month subscription to Broadway HD

Publisher: Great River Learning (grtep.com)

Purchased at CSU bookstore or directly through Publisher (see Great River Learning support document)

OTHER REQUIRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Each student is required to purchase a theatre ticket enabling him/her to attend one performance of a **live**, professionally-produced, instructor-approved, scripted play or musical in his/her immediate area prior to Week/Module 15.

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will discover the potential for learning, enjoyment, and personal growth in the theatre experience through a knowledge and appreciation of:

- The importance of theatrical movements, practices, and forms as expressions of social concerns throughout the ages;
- The relationships of dramatic themes, characters, conflicts and their resolutions to the student's own life journey;
- The unique working relationships of theatre practitioners as collaborative artists and artisans; and
- The significance of the ongoing tradition of theatre as a synthesis of the arts.

Therefore, you will be able to approach a theatrical event both comfortably and knowledgeably and experience live performance as a responsive and responsible audience member.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

Organization of content: 15 modules are presented on a weekly basis comprised of readings, videos, learning activities, discussions, and graded assignments. The 16th module is reserved for final exam and submission of the third and final critique. Students should complete all tasks in each module before moving on (i.e., don't work ahead) with the exception of the critique submissions. Critiques can be submitted at any time throughout the semester, but one must be submitted by each upcoming due date (the first is due in Module 7).

GRADING

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. To that end, it is my commitment to you to respond individually your work and to return your work in a timely manner. Smaller, weekly assignments and quizzes will be returned within one week and the critiques will be graded within two weeks of the due date. (If, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading takes longer than the times listed here, I will keep you informed.)

QUIZZES

Quizzes have been built into your textbook at the end of each of the 15 chapters. Quizzes can be taken multiple times. Only the highest score will be recorded. Quizzes close on the Sunday the corresponding module closes. For example, Chapter 1 quiz is due the Sunday Module 1 closes. There is no opportunity to make up a missed quiz. There is no quiz for Module 16.

EXAMS

Exams have also been built into your digital textbook. Exams are open for 24 hours on the assigned day. You will only have one (1) hour to complete each exam once you begin. Exams are a mixed bag of multiple choice, True/False, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

CRITIQUES

Students must see three (3) theatrical performances and critique them. One of the productions must be a live play/musical. Productions should be at the professional or collegiate level. If this option is not available in your community, please let me know. The other two productions may be streamed digitally from your BroadwayHD subscription that comes with your textbook. For each of the **three required attendances**, the student will write an opinion paper (a.k.a. critique or review). Specific criteria and rubrics for the **three opinion papers** will be covered in class in Module 4. All papers will be submitted via the assignment drop box provided on Canvas. Due dates are posted throughout the course, so plan accordingly.

Papers will be graded by GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants)

General Critique Requirements: Minimum Length: Two 8½ " x 11" typewritten pages, double-spaced, 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman), standard one-inch margins. Maximum Length: Three pages. Specific rubrics will be published on Canvas for each submission.

EXTRA CREDIT

Optional extra credit can be earned for additional *live* or streamed theatre attended between the first day of class and the last day of class. No concerts or films will be accepted for extra credit.

To document extra credit, the student should:

First, confirm with the instructor that the attendance would be an appropriate choice.

Second, save the ticket stub and program from the performance.

Third, submit **via email** proof of purchase (receipt, ticket, and/or program) with a **300-word paragraph** describing how the experience related to an idea or concept discussed in class and/or mentioned in the textbook. Required Submission Date: ***Within ten days of the performance date.***

30 Points	Professional Productions, Dinner Theatre, Comedy Clubs
25 Points	Off-Campus Community Theatre Productions (Bas Bleu, OpenStage)
20 Points	College Theatre, Dance and Opera Productions (CSU and Elsewhere)
15 Points	BroadwayHD productions
10 Points	Amateur Productions (High School, Church Pageant)

Total Extra Credit Possible: Up to **100 Points!**

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Details/explanation of each graded assignment (discussions, module assignments, quizzes and capstone project critique paper) will be indicated in the text of each module.

ASSIGNMENT*	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Discussions	15/10 pts each	12.5%
Module Assignments	13/15 pts each	16.5%
Quizzes	15/10 pts each	12.5%
Exams (taken through GRL text)	4/100 pts each	33.5%
Critiques	3/100 pts each	25%
Total:	1195	100 %
	+ up to 100 points Extra Credit	8%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas course learning management system.

GRADE DESCRIPTION

98-100 % = A+	93-97 % = A	90-92 % = A-
88-89 % = B+	83-87 % = B	80-82 % = B-
78-79 % = C+	73-77 % = C	70-72 % = C-
68-69 % = D+	63-67 % = D	60-62 % = D-
	0-59 % = F	

MAKE UP POLICY AND LATE WORK

No make-up assignments, quizzes, or exams will be accepted without **prior** arrangement with the instructor. As this is an online class and you have the ability to work at your own pace, late work is unacceptable. For weekly assignments, discussions, and critiques, a penalty of 10% each subsequent day will be applied to a late assignment. After five days, late work will no longer be accepted. As coursework cannot be submitted after the close of the course, I cannot accept late submissions of Critique #3. You may, however, turn in any assignment or critique early.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity [Policies and Guiding Principles](#) as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. Violations of the university's academic integrity standards include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating—includes using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work or engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by the faculty member.
- Plagiarism—includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one’s own without proper acknowledgment.
- Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials—includes the unauthorized selling or purchasing of examinations or other academic work; stealing another student’s work; unauthorized entry to or use of material in a computer file; and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students.
- Falsification—includes any untruth, either verbal or written, in one’s academic work.
- Facilitation—includes knowingly assisting another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

CSU HONOR PLEDGE

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. *While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge, you will be asked to affirm the following statement at the start of your capstone project/critique paper:*

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU’s [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying memo from [Resources for Disabled Students](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

SYSTEM, MULTIMEDIA, AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Having trouble with the multimedia in this course? See the solutions below. Also, it is highly recommended that you access your course via a **high-speed Internet connection**.

- Problems with opening PDFs?
 - Download [Adobe Reader](#).
- Canvas acting funny?
 - Review Canvas guide for [Supported Browsers](#).
- YouTube videos not playing?
 - Download [Flash Player](#).
- Videos not opening or playing on your Mac?
 - Download [Windows Media Components for QuickTime](#).
- Still having issues:
 - Call the **CSU Help Desk at 970-491-7276** or [Email Help Desk Support](#)

You must have speakers installed and working properly on your computer before beginning the course.

You may need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or Excel to complete assignments. If you do not have access to the Microsoft Office applications, you may use one of the following free resources that allow you to save your files with Microsoft Office file extensions (.doc, .docs, .ppt, .xls.):

- [Google Apps for CSU](#)—a free, outsourced communications suite endorsed by The University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB)
- [Office 365](#)—the full version of Microsoft Office free of charge for CSU students.

COPYRIGHTED COURSE MATERIALS

Please do not share material from this course in online, print, or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including

with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

SUGGESTED STUDY METHODS

Online education requires skills and habits that may be less essential in traditional courses. In order to be successful in your online course you will need:

- Space—Establish a comfortable and well-organized physical workplace.
- Time management skills—Set personal study and "classroom" time as you would do for a traditional course.
- Organization skills—Print out all class material (modules, PowerPoints, assignments, additional resources, and any work you generate) and keep everything in a single location. Maintain electronic backups of all class materials.
- Communication skills—Demonstrate a willingness to interact with your instructor and classmates through email, phone calls, discussion boards, and active participation in all class activities.
- Initiative—Seek help from your instructor and classmates, ask questions as they arise.
- Discipline—Pace yourself, complete all activities and assignments before the due date, follow through on all class requirements to completion.

The more closely you adhere to the recommendations above the greater your chances of having a successful semester and a rewarding online experience.