UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: THEA
Course Title: Introduction to Theatre

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 1013 X01, X51
Credits: 3

Course Description

Surveys the institution of theatre and its creation, including the history of theatre, dramatic structure, play texts, and various roles in theatre production, including playwright, actor, director, producer, dramaturg, designer, production staff, house staff, technical crew, and publicist. Incorporates lectures, readings, play texts, live theatre attendance, individual projects, and group projects. Focuses on career paths and professional skills in majors-only sections. Focuses on appreciation of theatre through understanding its components in non-majors and Concurrent Enrollment sections. Emphasizes playwriting, as a writing-enriched course. Requires students to write and rewrite a ten-minute play.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:
☒ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☒ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Lisa Hall

Student Learning Outcomes

1	Articulate the major components of the theatre art form.
2	Participate in some of the essential areas of theatre, including acting, design, writing, and play analysis.
3	Critically evaluate theatre as a commercial product.
4	Describe periods of theatre history
5	Write a knowledgeable analysis of theatre presentation and dramatic structures.

Course Materials and Texts

All required materials for this course are provided within the modules.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Grading Scale:
The following grading standards will be used in this class:
Grade Percent
A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72
D+ 67-69
D 63-66
D- 60-62
E 0-59
Assignment Categories
Activity Points
Assignments 230 points
Discussions 120 points
Quizzes 65 points
Exam 50 points
Assignments:

● "Theatre Experience Paper" (20 points)

● "Original Scene" (20 points)

● Performance Paper 1: Directing Focus (30 points)

● "The Experience of a Musical" (20 points)

● Performance Analysis Paper 2 (30 points)

● Audience Expectation Paper (20 points)

● "Performance Analysis Revision" (20 points)

● "Ticket Price Activity" (20 points)

● Culminating Final Project (50 points)

Discussions:

● "Three Examples of Theatre" (10 points)

● "Universality and Pertinence" (10 points)

● "A Playwright's Approach" (10 points)

● "Responding to New Work" (10 points)

● "Good Acting" (10 points)

- "Directorial Concept" (10 points)

- "A Storytelling Song" (10 points)

- "A costume that speaks volumes" (10 points)

- "Analyzing Design" (10 points)

- "Theatre Criticism and Production Dramaturgy" (10 points)

- "Theatre for Young Audiences" (10 points)

- "Thinking Like a Producer" (10 points)

Discussions will be opportunities to explore topics together. Posts to the discussion should add significantly to the conversation and support your point of view. *Comments that do not add significantly to a discussion will receive **no credit***. It is okay to disagree in a discussion. In fact much learning happens when we disagree. However we need to be respectful and keep our online classroom a safe place to learn.

Posts and responses to your peers are both due by the discussion's due date.

Assessments:

- Module 1 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 2 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 3 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 4 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 5 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 6 quiz (5 points)

- Module 7 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 8 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 9 Quiz (5 points)

- Module 10 quiz (5 points)

- Module 11 quiz (5 points)

- Module 12 quiz (5 points)

- Module 13 Quiz (5 points)

- Cumulative Final Exam (50 points)

All quizzes and exams are administered through Canvas.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
See below

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Module	Reading or Viewing	Assignments & Discussions

1: What Makes Theatre Unique?	Read: Reading 1 from *Theatrical Worlds* Watch: "Why I do Theatre"	Discuss: "Three Examples of Theatre" Submit: "Theatre Experience Paper" Complete: Module 1 Quiz
2: The Origins of Theatre	Watch: "Origins of Greek Drama" Watch: "Shakespeare's Tragedies" Read: one play from list	Discuss: "Universality and Pertinence" Complete: Module 2 Quiz
3: Script Analysis & Playwriting	Read: Reading 2 from *Theatrical Worlds* Activity: Script Structure	Discuss: "A Playwright's Approach" Complete: Module 3 Quiz
4: Playwriting & New Play Dramaturgy	Read: "Playwriting for Dummies" Read: Scene from *SLAB*	Discuss: "Responding to New Work" Submit: "Original Scene" Complete: Module 4 Quiz
5: Performing	Read: Acting Reading from *Theatrical Worlds* Watch: one acting coach video	Discuss: "What is Good Acting?" Complete: Module 5 Quiz

6: Directing	Read: Reading 3 from *Theatrical Worlds* Watch: Director interview	Discuss: "Directorial Concept" Submit: "Performance Paper 1" Complete: Module 6 Quiz
7: Directing, Music Direction, & Choreography	· Watch: "Broadway Musicals"	Discuss: "A Storytelling Song" Submit: "The Experience of a Musical Complete: Module 7 Quiz
8: Design Part 1 - Costuming	· Read: Costume Design reading from *Theatrical Worlds*	Discuss: "A costume that speaks volumes" Complete: Module 8 Quiz
9: Design Part 2 – Set & Lights	Read: Set Design reading from *Theatrical Worlds* Read: Lighting Design reading from *Theatrical Worlds* Watch: "Stage Build Time Lapse"	Discuss: "Analyzing Design" Submit: "Performance Analysis Paper 2" Complete: Module 9 Quiz
10: Audience Experience	· Read: "Playing the Role Well"	· Submit: "Audience Expectation Paper"

	· Watch: "The Arts Festival Revolution"	· Complete: Module 10 Quiz

11: Theatre Criticism & Production Dramaturgy	Read: "The Basics of Criticism" Read: "What Does a Dramaturg Do?" Read: one play from list	Discuss: "Criticism and New Play Dramaturgy" Complete: Module 11 Quiz
12: Theatre for Young Audiences	Read: "Theatre for Young Audiences" Read: Why Do Kids Need Theatre?"	Discuss: "Theatre for Young Audiences" Submit: "Performance Analysis Revision" Complete: Module 12 Quiz
13: Theatre Administration and Producing	Read: "Is the ticket price right?" Read: "15 Tips on Setting Up a Theatre Company"	Submit: "Ticket Price Activity" Discuss: "Thinking Like a Producer" Complete: Module 13 Quiz
14: Culminating Project		Submit: "Culminating Final Project" Complete: "Cumulative Final Exam"

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
AI Statement
AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:
- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.
AI statement from Hilary Hungerford. Adapted from Temple University statement on AI in classes

Using Remote Testing Software
☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities
Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](#) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](#)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.