Course Syllabus: Introduction to Theatre

HCC Academic Discipline: Drama
Course Title: Introduction to Theatre
Course Rubric and number: DRAM 1310
Course CRN: 55189
Semester Term: Summer 1 - 2015
Campus and Room Location with days and times: Central- Fine Arts Ctr Room 207  M- F 10 am – 12 pm

Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH): 3 credits
Course contact hours per semester: 48
Course length: Summer – 1st five weeks
Type of Instruction: lecture

Instructor: Deborah Anderson
Contact Information: Call and leave a message at the fine art’s office or leave a note in my box
Phone (appropriate department office, not instructor’s personal): 713-718-6600
Email: deborah.anderson@hccs.edu
Learning web address: http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/deborah.anderson
Instructor Scheduled Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description
1. Survey of all phases of theatre including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to the fine arts. Participation in major productions may be required. As defined in the Academic Course Guide Manual (AGCM) produced by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2009 (THECB)

2. Basic principles of theatre, including the various styles of theatrical production and present practices in the theatre. Required of majors. Open to non-majors. Core Curriculum Course (As listed in the 2009-2011 HCC Catalog.)

Course Prerequisites:
Must be placed into GUST 0342 (or higher) in reading and ENGL 0310/0349 (or higher) in writing

Course Goal: This Class is to give you an overview of the art of making, seeing and experiencing theater. Hopefully this course will help develop an appreciation and understanding of the art of Theater.
Course Student Learning Outcomes:
Course Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Analyze theater through written responses to play texts and live performance.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theater history and dramatic works.
3. Describe the collaborative nature of theater arts.
4. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.
5. Identify and define the function of sets, lights, costumes, props and sound in theatrical production.
6. Understand the role of society in the viewing and interpretation of theatrical productions.

Course Student Learning Objectives:
1. **Chapter assignments:** Have Chapters to be discussed read before class. Starting June 11th, 2015, a short quiz will be given at the start of each class over the chapter that is to be read for that class period. These cannot be made up. If you are late you forfeit the points.

2. **Play quizzes/tests:** There are play quizzes at the beginning of class on the day’s plays are due to begin discussion. There are also two major Tests and a Final Exam. ***Quizzes cannot be made up. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a major test let me know before the test and we can work out a time for you to take the same test as the rest of the class. Should you miss the test due to illness or misadventure contact the office immediately and the same will be possible.*** If, however, I am not informed until the next class or later then you will be able to take a short answer and essay only test.

3. **Play reading assignments:** We shall be reading three plays during the course of the semester. You must obtain a copy of each of these plays to read. They must be read prior to class discussion. *The first two plays may be found for free Online as they are in the public domain.

4. **Play attendance:** **You must see one professional or college plays this semester.** If you are in doubt weather a play falls into one of these categories ask me before attending. Community and other sorts of amateur performances can be used for extra credit only as well as additional University and Professional plays.

5. **Written assignments:** You will be required to write an evaluation of the plays you see (reviews). Be sure to have both papers typed with attention to grammar and spelling, i.e. use your spelling and grammar check please. Same with any extra credit plays you go to see. You must attach the ticket to the back of the paper.

6. **Production Concept Projects:** This major grade will be discussed at great length just after the first test. You will be taking what you have learned about theater and apply it to a concept project for a play of your choice. These will be presented in the last two weeks of class.

7. **In Class Activities:** These are in class assignments that will strive to actively engage everyone in practical exercises. These exercises encourage teamwork and give experiences that enhance understanding of theatre.

Core Curriculum:
This course fulfills the following core: Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility. A variety of academic experiences are used to develop these competencies. Each of these core competencies will be assessed and evaluated via the regular assignments, assessments, projects and experiences students complete throughout this course. These competencies are integral to successful completion of those assignments, assessments, projects, and experiences and will be used in the evaluation of such per the standardized rubrics established by HCCS.
**Critical Thinking:** Critical Thinking skills should allow students to apply creative thinking, innovation, levels of inquiry, qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and multiple levels of evaluation as well as being able to synthesize information and construction new strategies of thought.

**Communication:** Communication skills include not only written and oral skills, but also visual presentation. Students should be able to communicate not only with instructors, but hone their communication skills for successful self-presentation in the larger world.

**Teamwork:** An emphasis on Teamwork should allow students to actively engage in considering different point of view and use that knowledge to not only work with but also support others with a shared goal.

**Social Responsibility:** In order for students to not only understand their own experience but also the experience of others, both near and far, Social Responsibility has been placed as a competency. Students with clear Social Responsibility should be able to understand other cultures, their own role in societal and civic matters, and the world as a global community.

### HCC Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>June 8(^{th}), 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day for drop/add</td>
<td>June 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holidays and Breaks</td>
<td>Friday, July 3(^{rd}), 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to file for graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop classes with a grade of W</td>
<td>June 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction ends</td>
<td>July 7, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>July 9, 2015 at 10 am</td>
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### Date

#### Week 1

Monday June 8\(^{th}\), Class Introduction, Syllabus, Calendar

Tuesday June 9\(^{th}\), Chapter 1 - The Audience, Chapter 2 - Background and expectation of the audience

Wednesday June 10\(^{th}\) Chapter 3 - Theatre Spaces

Thursday June 11\(^{th}\) Chapter 4 – Acting – In class exercise
Official Day of Record – Books Due In Class (Quizzes Begin)

Friday June 12\(^{th}\) Chapter 5 - Director and Producer – In class exercise

**Read: Oedipus Rex** For Monday June 15\(^{th}\)

[https://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/sophocles/oedipustheking.htm](https://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/sophocles/oedipustheking.htm)
[http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/oedipus.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/oedipus.html)
[https://www.gutenberg.org/files/27673/27673-h/27673-h.htm](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/27673/27673-h/27673-h.htm)

#### Week 2

Monday June 15\(^{th}\) **Play Quiz 1 on Oedipus Rex,** Discuss Oedipus Rex. Review for Test #1

Tuesday June 16\(^{th}\) **1\(^{st}\) Test**
| Week 3     | Monday June 22\textsuperscript{nd} | **Play Quiz 2: Tartuffe**, discuss Play, See videos |
|           | Tuesday June 23\textsuperscript{rd} | Review for Test 2 |
|           | Wednesday June 24\textsuperscript{th} | **Test 2** |
|           | Thursday June 25\textsuperscript{th} | Chapter 9 - Scenery |
|           | Friday June 26\textsuperscript{th} | Production Project Work Day |

| Week 4     | Monday June 29\textsuperscript{th} | – Chapter 10 – Costume |
|           | In Class Exercise                  |
|           | **Read: Fences** by July 1\textsuperscript{st} |
|           | **Last Day to Drop with a W**      |
|           | Tuesday June 30\textsuperscript{th} | Chapter 11 – Lighting and Sound |
|           | Wednesday July 1\textsuperscript{st} | Chapter 13 – Musical Theatre – Videos |
|           | Thursday July 2\textsuperscript{nd} | **Play Quiz 3 on Fences**, Discuss Fences |
|           | Friday July 3\textsuperscript{rd} | No class – July 4\textsuperscript{th} Holiday |

| Week 5     | Monday July 6\textsuperscript{th} | Production projects due for presentation |
|           | Tuesday July 7\textsuperscript{th} | Finish Production projects due for presentation, Review for Exam |
|           | Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} | Exam – 10 am |

**Instructional Methods:**
Methods of instruction may include: explanations, demonstrations, in-class critiques, slide presentations, video/film presentations, lectures, and/or readings (from textbooks, peer-reviewed articles, books, original source seminal texts). Class time may include demonstrations, field trips, assignments, introductions, rehearsal time for in-class projects, and critiques.
Student Assignments:
Assignments/Activities may include: in attendance at theatrical performances, written critical responses, group projects, critiques, exams or quizzes, various assigned readings from textbooks, peer-reviewed articles, books, original source seminal texts; discussions based on various topics related to the major areas of study in Drama; writing papers including critiques, essays, analyses, reviews, research, comparing and contrasting artistic or design theories and perspectives; service learning projects; presentations; group and/or individual projects. This course requires a minimum of 2000 words in a combination of writing assignments and/or projects

Student Assessments:
Methods of Assessment/Evaluation may include: creative projects, tests and quizzes which may include: definitions, matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, brief essay, essay, lists; writing assignments, in-class discussions and/or critiques; written papers including critiques, essays, analyses, reviews, research, comparing and contrasting artistic or design theories

Instructional Materials:
Required Text: The Theater Experience by Wilson 13th Edition
Required additional supplies: Oedipus Rex (or King Oedipus, Oedipus the King) by Sophocles, Tartuffe by Molière, and Fences by August Wilson

HCC Policy Statement: Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

If you have any questions, please contact the Disability Counselor at your college or the District Disability Office at 713-718-5165 or the Southwest College Counselor: Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7909.

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, Click Future Students
Scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/future-students/disability-services

HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty
You are expected to be familiar with the College's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog and student handbook. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:
- Copying from another student’s test paper;
- Using materials during a test that are not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authority;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.
Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for credit.

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

Violations: Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of “0” or “F” on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. A recommendation for suspension or expulsion will be referred to the College Dean of Student Development for disciplinary disposition.

Students who wish to appeal a grade penalty should notify the instructional supervisor within 30 working days of the incident. A standing committee appointed by the College Dean of Instruction (Academic or Workforce) will convene to sustain, reduce, or reverse the grade penalty. The committee will be composed of two students, two faculty members, and one instructional administrator. A majority vote will decide the grade appeal and is final.

Official HCC Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students are responsible for material covered during their absences, and it is the student’s responsibility to consult with instructors for makeup assignments. Class attendance is checked daily by instructors.

Although it is the responsibility of the student to drop a course for non-attendance, the instructor has the authority to drop a student for excessive absences.

A student may be dropped from a course for absenteeism after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the hours of instruction (including lecture and laboratory time).
For example:
For a three credit-hour lecture class meeting three hours per week (48 hours of instruction), a student may be dropped after six hours of absences.

Administrative drops are at the discretion of the instructor. If you are doing poorly in the class, but you have not contacted your professor to ask for help, and you have not withdrawn by the official withdrawal date, it will result in you receiving a grade of “F” in the course.

NOTE: LAST DAY FOR STUDENT/ADMINISTRATIVE DROP THIS SEMESTER: June 29th

Course Withdrawals-First Time Freshmen Students-Fall 2007 and Later:
Effective 2007, section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code applies to first-time in college freshman students who enroll in a Texas public institution of higher education in the fall semester of 2007 or thereafter. High school students currently enrolled in HCC Dual Credit and Early College are waived from this requirement until they graduate from high school.

Based on this law, HCC or any other Texas Public institution of higher education may not permit students to drop after the official day of record more than six college level credit courses for unacceptable reasons during their entire undergraduate career.
Course Withdrawals:
Be sure you understand HCC policies about dropping a course. It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw officially from a course and prevent an “F” from appearing on the transcript. If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you MUST contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done PRIOR to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. **Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

Early Alert Program:
To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

Repeat Course Fee:
The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

Individual Instructor’s Requirements Statement  Please do not assume that if you have a large number of absences that I will automatically drop you. If you want to drop the class it is your responsibility to do so. I also am not able to give W’s after the last day to drop a class. You are responsible for completing your own assignments and turning them in on time. You are responsible for seeing 2 professional or college level productions and turning in a well written review. It is your responsibility to show up on time and prepared for class. I will turn in the grade you earn. I will endeavor to help you understand the information covered in this class. I will endeavor to help you understand your assignments.

Some of the subject matter or language may make some students uncomfortable. If a subject makes you uncomfortable, please let me know and then you may need to excuse yourself. However, I hope that you will understand that this is material that is challenging and these discussions promote better understanding. Do your best to try to engage in the discussion rather than avoid it.

You will be expected to work with classmates in class and may need to meet outside of class to complete some assignments. Get to know your classmates.
Begin by considering yourself to be part of a learning community where members support one another with suggestions and constructive criticism. Learning, observing, and sharing are central to this course. An attitude of awareness and openness are essential to your development and your contribution to the developments of the other members in this class. Please leave your worries, frustrations, competitiveness, and negativity outside the classroom door as much as possible. Active participation in discussion and presentation of projects within the class is not only welcome, it is an essential requirement.

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, you are welcome to take class notes on a laptop computer. However, laptops should only be used for taking notes over the current discussions/activities—and you must type very quietly and turn off all sound so as not to disturb other class members. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

**HCC Grading Information:**

**Grading percentile: the official HCC grading rubric is as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90–100 percent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Exceptionally fine work; superior in presentation, visual observation, comprehension and participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–89 percent</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average work; superior in one or two areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70–79 percent</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average work; good, unexceptional participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60–69 percent</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average work; noticeably weak with minimal participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60 percent</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Clearly deficient in presentation, style and content with a lack of participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is conditional. It will only be assigned if at least 80% of the course work is complete. Students receiving an "I," must make an arrangement with the instructor in writing to complete the course work within six months. After the deadline, the "I" becomes an "F." All "I" designations must be changed to grades prior to graduation. Changed grades will appear on student record as "I"/Grade (example: "I/A").

The grade of "W" (Withdrawal) appears on grade reports when students withdraw from a class by the drop deadline. Instructors have the option of dropping students up to the deadline. After the deadline, instructors do not have that option — not even when entering final grades.

**Instructor Grading Criteria:**

Homework, assignments and projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Adherence to all specific assignment guidelines/content requirements.
- Adherence to deadlines.
- Level of technical difficulty attempted and achieved. More sophisticated work may receive higher scores.
- Creativity and Originality: Solving the assignments in an imaginative and unique way may lead to a higher score.
- Honesty: Submit your own work.
Instructor’s Final Grading Legend:

The final grade will consist of the following:

- Tests; 2@100 pts = 200
- Chapter quizzes: 6 @ 20 points each = 120
- In class exercises: 3 @ 30 points each = 90
- Play Review: 100 pts = 100
- Quizzes: 3@ 30 pts each = 90
- Exam: 150
- Production Projects: 150 Total: 900 pts = 100%

EXTRA CREDIT: You may see Extra plays (with accompanying review) for up to 100 points of extra credit. This is an opportunity to raise your grade one later grade max.

- EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System
  At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term. **If you show me proof that you have taken this for my class I will give you 10 points extra credit!**