

THE 2000: Theater Appreciation Syllabus Template

Your course instructor will provide you with an extended version of this course syllabus.

Course Information

Course Title:	Theater Appreciation
Course ID:	THE 2000
CRN:	
Course Description:	(The course description can be found below)
Term and Year:	
Course Modality:	F2F and Online

Instructor Information

Name:	
Department:	Humanities
Campus:	
Office Hours:	(Office hours are posted by all faculty)
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Communication Policy:	(All communication is through established protocols)

Required Textbook, Supplemental Materials, and Technology

Goldfarb, Alfred and Edward Wilson. *Theater: The Lively Art*. 10th ed. McGraw, 2018.

(Any version of this text is acceptable, including digital copies.)

Students need ready access to a good, college-level dictionary, a computer, and the Internet. Audio-visual material will be provided through LMS.

Course Description:

This course is the study of theater as an art form and as a performing art; dramatic structure, form, and style; the chronological development of theater from primitive man to contemporary times including its drama, playwrights, costumes, theater structure, and social relationships. You are required to demonstrate college-level English skills through multiple assignments and earn a grade of C or higher in this course. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of ENC 1101 with a grade of C or higher.

College-Wide Student Learning Outcomes

This course supports the following College-wide Student Learning Outcomes (SLO-CoWs):

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate (read, write, speak, and listen) effectively.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, synthesize and apply knowledge.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to find, evaluate, organize, and use information.
4. Prepare students to participate actively as informed and responsible citizens in social, cultural, global and environmental matters

Course Outcomes

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

1. Have a broad base of knowledge regarding the theatre, its history, and modern production practices;
2. Understand how a playscript functions as a storytelling device and as the backbone of a performance;
3. Examine theatre's role in influencing culture even as culture regulates the theatre; and
4. Think creatively about play production

Technology, Technological Skill Requirements, and Acceptable File Formats

Technology Requirements:

Students will need access to a computer with high-speed Internet, audio and video capability. Use of Microsoft Office Suite 2007 or newer is required. Students who use a Mac do so at their own discretion, and all students must purchase the appropriate software to be compatible with PCs and the Brightspace course management system. Students should also have a USB key/flash drive for storage of all submitted work. All students need knowledge of file management, e-mail, attachments, word processing, and Internet search processes. Each student is required to be self-motivated and be current on reading assignments and course activities to maximize the overall learning experience as well as function in the online environments. The Brightspace course management system represents the primary source of interactions with the instructor and fellow classmates. Therefore, students are required to complete assignments in a timely and consistent manner in this online environment. Assignment due dates and times are firm and are not subject to negotiation. Students must use the Brightspace e-mail system to communicate with the SFSC community. All of this is available on the SFSC campus by accessing the computer labs in the Library.

In addition, any problems that students may have with their own computer systems are not the responsibility of SFSC or the instructor. This class is a Brightspace course; this means that all assignments are Brightspace/Internet based and require regular interface with these environments. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared and capable of functioning in these technological environments. As such, claims that assignments could not be completed on time because of computer problems, Internet access issues, etc. will not be relevant.

The only instances that assignment deadlines may be extended is if there are Brightspace system-wide problems, weather issues, or other systemic problems. Alerts of this nature will be sent to students via Blackboard Connect. Nevertheless, students are responsible for the working function of their own computers, printers, and internet services and for getting their assignments completed and submitted ON TIME and in the appropriate format.

Grading Policy and Late Work:

All evaluated written assignments for this class will be kept by the student. Students should keep their original copies of written work that they submit for grading. Work will not be accepted for grade credit after the last day of regular classes for the semester. Students who do not obtain at least a grade of "C" will receive no college credit for this course. Student grades will be recorded on Brightspace; as such, it is students' responsibility to keep track of their grades.

All work submitted for evaluation must be a finished product. In other words, it must be free of errors, including spelling, structural, and grammatical. Because writing is a recursive process--one which includes much revision--the student should expect to write several drafts of each paper before it is ready for final evaluation. All written work must be submitted in a timely manner. Because this is a

writing-intensive course, your instructor will need much time to grade written work. However, your instructor will have your written work graded and returned to you within two weeks.

Late work, including late submission, resubmissions, or corrected files, is not accepted. Exclusions to this policy include students who have registered a documented illness, injury, or personal hardship with the Dean of Student Services, who will contact the instructor.

Student Assessment

This course is designed using a 1,000-point system. Each assignment below is assigned a certain number of points. Throughout the term and at the end, all points in the course are added up in Brightspace **Grades** (also known as Gradebook) and final grades distributed as follows: **A** (900-1000), **B** (800-899), **C** (700-799), **D** (600-699), and **F** (599 and below).

Note that final grades are not rounded up: for example, 895 points for a final grade is not rounded up to 900; it means the student earned 895 out of 1000 points or a high "B" (5 points away from an "A"). The only exceptions are 899, 799, and 699: one point may be given only in these situations so that the student earns the next or higher final letter grade—an "A," "B," or "C," respectively. Earned extra credit points are recorded in **Grades** but do not apply until the end of the semester since these points are added to the **Final Adjusted Grade**. (Grading policies may vary according to the instructor)

Assignment Descriptions

Below are the assignments for this course with corresponding point totals (how much the assignments are worth). Some assignments receive not only a grade out of a certain number of points but instructor written comments in **Grades/Feedback** explaining the grade, indicated with an asterisk or "*" below. Assignment requirements and due dates will be specified in assignment descriptions and in **News**.

Regardless of the assignment, in order to earn maximum points, follow instructions in the assignment descriptions, be complete or thorough, and proofread carefully to correct conventional or other errors prior to submission. Whereas most or all assignment descriptions are clear, if you do not understand how to complete an assignment or need clarification, schedule a Zoom meeting with your instructor during his office hours.

- **(3) Term Quizzes (60 Points Total; 20 Points/20 Terms Each Quiz)**

The 3 quizzes consist of identification questions/matching of theatrical (and film) terms to definitions. Students will be provided with the terms and definitions in advance with adequate time to study and prepare for the quizzes. 20 terms will be matched to 20 definitions on each quiz. Each quiz takes about 15-20 minutes on average. If you have a memorandum of accommodations on file and require extra time, speak to me after the first two classes so we can make arrangements for you to take the quizzes in the Testing Center.

- **Activities (140 Points Total)**

Completed primarily in class, usually working with a small group but also with a partner, activities may include the following: presentations on various topics, rotating stations/topics, Socratic seminars/fishbowl discussions, a peer response on a partner's Play Review & Evaluation draft, a Gallery walk, and a semester reflection.

The number of points for individual assignments will vary. For group activities, the most common form of in-class assignment, everyone in the group will earn the same grade. The first group activity and perhaps some others will receive the instructor's (likely handwritten) comments in addition to a grade.*

- **8 Online Discussions (400 Points Total; 50 Points Each Discussion)**

Although we are reading 9 plays and viewing select film adaptations or excerpts of the plays, everyone is required to complete 8 total Online Discussions this semester in **Assignments/Discussions**. Weekly coursework in **News** will announce that an Online Discussion is available **Assignments/Discussions**.

Everyone will complete a total of 5 Initial Responses for 5 Discussion weeks and a total of 3 Reply Posts for 3 other—i.e., not the same as the Initial Response—Discussion weeks. In other words, a Reply Post cannot appear in the same Discussion week as an Initial Response: it is up to you to decide which 5 will be Initial Response weeks and which 3 will be Reply Post weeks. I do not contact students about Online Discussions; rather, you are responsible for keeping track and making sure you complete any 5 Initial Responses and any 3 Reply Posts for 8 total Discussions.

Each Initial Response should consist of 300-350 words and be written (submitted or posted) by a specified due date; each Reply Post should consist of 250-300 words and be written (submitted or posted) by a specified due date. The first 2 Initial Responses* receive and the first Reply Post* receives instructor written comments in **Grades/Feedback** in addition to a grade.

- **Play Review and Evaluation (150 Points)**

In the Play Review and Evaluation, which constitutes a shorter writing assignment, you will review and evaluate a play (and possibly a film adaptation or film “based on” or “inspired by” a play) that is **not** on our reading and viewing list. The length is 3 to 4 pages. “Review” means you will select theatrical and film terms from the terms and definitions on the quizzes and apply them to—find specific and meaningful examples in—your play/film. “Evaluate” means to provide a series of judgments about the quality or value of the play/film. The Play Review is not (primarily) a research paper, but you can cite up to a few sources if you choose in the Review; if you elect to include citations from a source or a few sources, make sure they appear in correct and current MLA Format.

See “Activities” above for other grading possibilities regarding the Play Review. A rough draft of the Play Review may be collected but not graded; the purpose of my collecting a rough draft is so that I can provide* comments. The grade of the (final version) submission only, however, will appear but not include comments in **Grades/Feedback**.

- **Final Exam (250 Points)**

The comprehensive Final Exam will be completed towards the end/at the end of the semester and will cover the plays (and their corresponding film adaptations—one and the same for our purposes) in this course. It will be completed as a take-home over the course of at least one full week.

The Final Exam* receives written comments in **Grades/Feedback** in addition to a grade.

(Course assignments may vary by instructor).