



Syllabus for Drama 24 (Introduction to Theatre)

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2022

Course ID & Section #: Drama 24 D4171

Instructor's name: Janessa Johnsrude

Day/Time of required meetings: Mondays, 10:30 – 12:30 in-person, partial distance ed. other days

Location: Pelican Bay State Prison, A Yard

Course units: 3

Textbook: Drama 24: Introduction to Theatre Lectures, Chapters, Articles, and Play Introductions

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: Pelican Bay Education Rooms

Office hours: By appointment

Email address: Janessa-Johnsrude@Redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

This course focuses on the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history, and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to elements of the production process including playwriting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. Students will also survey different periods, styles and genres of theatre through play reading, discussion, films and viewing and critiquing live theatre, including required attendance of theatre productions.

** Note: Any videos shown via the institutional channel are not required. Recordings of live performances will be shown in class.*

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Identify and describe the major historical periods, genres, figures, archetypal dramatic forms, and acting techniques of theater.
2. Define the roles of playwright, director, actor, technical designer, and audience in the dramatic process.
3. Analyze literary (plot, character, setting, theme) and performance (direction, acting, technical design) elements of a play in their cultural contexts.

4. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical context in which theatre exists.

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

Student Support

For academic counsel and advising, transcript requests, and material requests, please send a formal request to Ms. Eagles via a letter or "Ask CR Sheet". Mail this to the Education Department (Attn: CR Scholars).

The Pelican Bay Scholars Program strives to offer quality education opportunities in a learning environment that promotes collaboration, individuality, capability and empowerment; to support students in leading meaningful and productive lives inside and outside of prison; and to provide education that boosts economic vitality for students as contributors and leaders within their communities.

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let me know about any specific challenges or limitations that might affect your participation in class.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Each assignment will be worth a certain number of points. The points will be configured into a percentage and a letter value, shown below, to determine your final grade. I reserve the right to alter deadlines/assignment requirements if needed.

Please note that it will take me approximately 2 weeks to grade your work and provide feedback. If it will take longer, I will notify you of the reason and provide a date by which you can expect your grade. Assignments submitted in handwriting must be legible in order to receive a grade/feedback.

The “response assignments” will be graded as either “complete” or “incomplete” - as in you completed it (full credit), kind of did it or didn’t do it (no credit). It will be similar with your participation mark on all activities outlined below. If you cannot attend class on the day a participatory activity takes place, we will work together to find a way to make it up.

Course Grade - Minimum threshold for earning each letter grade is as follows:

Letter Grade Weight Breakdown:

A (100-90% / 1000-900 points) – Fulfills all requirements and exceeds expectations.

B (89-80% / 890 - 800 points) – Fulfills all requirements and meets expectations.

C (79-70% / 790-700 points) – Fulfills most requirements and meets some expectations.

D (69-60% / 690 - 600 points) – Fulfills some requirements; does not meet expectations.

F (59-0% / 590 - 0 points) – Not yet. Doesn’t fulfill enough requirements and expectations.

Assignments: grade % and points valued

Responses: 20% (200 points)

Your response assignments are personal reflections on material we cover in class. The prompts for each response will be different. They are a chance for you to deeply explore ideas, articulate your point of view, and engage personally with the material. The response prompts are attached to the course calendar on a separate document.

Response #1 50 5%

Response #2 50 5%

Response #3 50 5%

Response #4 50 5% (this response is based on a work we will be viewing in class, in the event that we are unable to view the work, the other grade percentages of responses 1-4 will increase to absorb this assignment)

Quizzes: 10% (100 points)

The quizzes are out of class quizzes and a component of distance learning. They are open book, but are to be completed individually (not as a group).

Quiz #1 50 5%

Quiz #2 50 5%

Plot and Character Analysis 25% (250 points)

This assignment will be given in class with a rubric attached. Earning additional optional bonus points will be possible with this assignment.

Play Analysis 25% (250 points)

This assignment will be given in class with a rubric attached. Earning additional optional bonus points will be possible with this assignment.

Scene Work: Presentation and Response 10% (100 points)**Class Participation: 15% (150 points)**

Class participation includes engagement in group discussions, play readings in class, a verbatim/documentary theatre pitch, leading/following warm-ups and acting exercises, and completing your work on time. The following will be considered:

- Willingness to participate in class discussions/play readings.
- Full engagement with class activities, exercises, and discussions.
- Respectful and engaged participation as an audience member/listener.
- Respectful behavior towards classmates, subject matter, and instructor.
- Being prepared for class and completing assignments on time (so the group can move forward together)

Scores may be lowered for:

- Being unprepared for class
- Sleeping/distracted/doing other work in class.
- Half-hearted, disingenuous, or uncommitted participation.
- Disrespectful or disruptive behavior.

TOTAL: 100% (1000 points)

It is expected that you do your best to complete each assignment by the due date noted on the course calendar. I am aware that this might not be possible in every instance due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you have any questions or concerns about due dates, please let me know. If you happen to miss a day where an in-person delivery of an assignment (like a presentation or performance) is required, you will be given an alternative assignment to make-up for the missed work.

A Note on Content

The plays we read in this class may contain sexuality, violence, racism and racial tension, gender norms, etc. I address this on a deeper level with you in the course, but please communicate with me if you are unable to participate due to content material and we can discuss alternative options.

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Fall 2022 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/20/22*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/26/22*

- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/02/22*
- *Labor Day Holiday (all campuses closed): 09/05/22*
- *Census date: 9/06/22 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 09/16/22*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/27/22*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Veteran's Day (all campuses closed): 11/11/22*
- *Fall Break (no classes): 11/21/22 – 11/25/22*
- *Thanksgiving Holiday (all campuses closed): 11/23/22 – 11/25/22*
- *Final examinations: 12/10/22 – 12/16/22*
- *Semester ends: 12/16/22*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 01/06/23*

Academic Honesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Emergency Procedures: Pelican Bay

Students and faculty will follow the emergency protocols of Pelican Bay State Prison. Students are expected to be familiar with, and adhere to all safety procedures and guidelines pertinent to the location of their class. Pelican Bay Custody staff will be consulted for guidance with any safety concerns.

Habits and Expectations

1. Arrive on time. Out of respect for your fellows and the work, we will begin promptly at the start of class. It is imperative that you arrive for the start of class prepared and ready to go. We might begin with a participatory activity that you will be graded on. If you arrive late for a reasonable reason, please join in without disruption so the class can continue with whatever work we are doing and see me at the end of class to make a note on the attendance sheet.
2. Attend regularly. It's understandable that there may be times you cannot come to class given the nature of the prison environment. If you know you will not be able to make a class, you must let me know at least one week in advance. If this is not possible, please notify me in-person, or you may ask a peer to notify me. Please communicate about your needs. You will be expected to catch up and stay up to date on all of your assignments regardless of missing class. The design of the course allows for you to read the lectures and complete the assignments if you miss class.
3. Be prepared. Complete your assignments on time and ready to hand-in at the beginning of class (this is when all the assignments will be due – at the beginning of class). You are not to work on assignments during class unless there is a designated work period. Bring all of your books and materials to each class. Please save your work as reference throughout the course. Be prepared for class discussions by completing the readings assigned. You'll get much more out of the course if you come prepped and ready to discuss!
4. Participate and Engage. Please refrain from side talking, passing notes, interrupting, and doing other work that isn't part of our coursework. Show respect to yourself, fellows and myself by listening, asking questions, responding, and participating. We are going to be stepping into some acting exercises and presentations that may take you out of your comfort zone. Do your best, step up, and contribute to an inclusive learning environment that fosters community, vulnerability, and supportive practices. In our performative readings of various plays, volunteer to take on roles that challenge you.

Community Agreements

We will collaborate in ensemble (together) to create these fill this portion out on the first day of class:

Agreement	Description
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In the Event of a Lockdown, Recall, or Quarantine

Keep up with the work. Please continue with the reading and any assignments noted in the course calendar on the dates they are assigned. Our lectures and classwork will correspond with required work outside of our scheduled meeting times.

Aside from the quizzes, you will receive the “response prompts” and your major analysis and assessment assignments ahead of time. They are meant to correspond to the readings and lectures happening chronologically. I do not recommend you do these before you read the corresponding assigned readings and attend the lectures if we are able to consistently meet

in-person. However, in the event that we cannot meet for a prolonged period of time (more than one week), please carry on with the readings and these assignments (the responses (1-4) the Plot and Character Analysis, and Play Analysis).

Tentative Course Calendar

*Please see attached document.