



Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University  
College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities  
Visual Arts, Humanities, and Theatre  
Tallahassee, Florida 32307

Syllabus for  
THE\_2000\_005\_2228  
Credit Hours: 3

**Modality:**

Face to Face

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Evelyn D. Tyler

**Email:** [evelyn.tyler@famu.edu](mailto:evelyn.tyler@famu.edu)

**Course GroupMe Link:** You're invited to join my group "Intro to Theatre (THE 2000-005)" on GroupMe. Please see link on Canvas, under Modules, to join.

**COVID-19 Expectations**

"Wearing a face covering in public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community. In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health, Florida A&M University expects everyone to wear a face covering in university buildings, including classrooms, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings should be worn appropriately (i.e., covering both your mouth and nose) in the building if you are attending class in person. Everyone is expected to wear one while inside any university building or public space in which social/physical distancing cannot be observed. Face coverings other than those provided by the University are acceptable so long as they provide appropriate coverage (mouth and nose).

Face coverings protect the health and safety of individual students as well as the health and safety of their classmates, instructor, and the university community. Anyone attending class in person without a face covering or whose face covering does not provide appropriate coverage may obtain a face covering, free of charge from University locations throughout the University. Instructors will end class if anyone present creates a disruption in class regarding behavioral expectations.

Students should observe signage or otherwise sit, stand, and situate themselves in the seating arrangement identified by their instructor. Disruptive students may face disciplinary action for Student Code of Conduct violations. Students may consult with the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CeDAR) for accommodations, as necessary.

Finally, students who are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms must not attend class in person and are encouraged to contact a health care provider. Students must report their absence to the course instructor. Alternatively, students may contact Student Health Services to report their absence, who will work with the student to communicate with the course instructor."

**Course Description**

FAMU Catalog Course Description: This course covers the basic theories and techniques of theatre from writing and interpreting scripts to planning and staging productions.

### **Course Goals**

To challenge students to interpret, criticize and appreciate the roles theatre plays in society. To explore the many areas of theatre with the express intent for that exploration to lead to understanding and appreciation of the collaborative nature of the art form. To prepare students to attend theatre productions as knowledgeable theatergoers.

### **Specific Behavioral Objectives**

In accordance with the English section of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Academic Learning Compact (2006-2007), this course is designed to meet the following objectives for Theatre graduates and other graduates enrolled in the Introduction to Theatre course:

- A. **Collaboration:** Students should be able to understand the concept of theatre as a collaborative art and identify the various roles of the collaborative process.
- B. **Communication:** Students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in varied forms of recognized communication.
- C. **Critical Thinking:** Students should be able to utilize creative and critical thinking; read with critical comprehension; evaluate and interpret works of art orally and in writing, using appropriate terminology; and utilize critically based knowledge in practical/creative projects.
- D. **Theatre Design, Theatre Management and Technology:** Students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the principles of design, technology and management.
- E. **Cultural Diversity:** Students should be able to describe theatre's relationship to culture and how cultural diversity manifests itself in theatre today.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will be able to:

- A. The student will be able to explore diverse forms of theatre and understand theatre's role to society.
- B. The student will be able to experience and analyze a theatrical production as a knowledgeable theatre goer.
- C. The student will be able to assess the full spectrum of skills, talents, arts, and creativity needed to stage a play.
- D. The student will be able to analyze a dramatic text.
- E. The student will be able to analyze the various roles and relationships of the members of the creative team.

### **Course Requirements**

Pre-requisites: N/A

### **Required Textbook**

*The Art of Theatre* by William Missouri Downs, Lou Anne Wright and Erik Ramsey, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### **Required Technology**

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to [Canvas](#)
- Lockdown Browser

Read detailed hardware/software requirements in the course menu under “How to Get Started”.

### **Course Structure**

This course will be delivered face to face in the room it is assigned as stated within iRattler. Course materials will be available on Canvas throughout the semester. You will use your FAMNet username and password to login to the course from the FAMU [Canvas login](#) page.

In Canvas, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced and group-paced activities using in class discussions, Canvas and alternative Internet-based technologies.

### **FAMU Canvas Access**

To access this course on FAMU Canvas you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, and Google Chrome). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the [Check Browser](#) from your Canvas course.

### **Technical Assistance**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas you can:

- Visit the [Office of Instructional Technology](#) page.
- Contact the Office of Instructional Technology at 850-599-3460 or [oit@fam.u.edu](mailto:oit@fam.u.edu).
- View [tutorials](#) to learn more about using Canvas.

### **Course Outline/Schedule**

Important Note: **This is a tentative schedule for the course, and may be changed without any prior notice.** Refer to the course calendar for specific focus areas and assignments. Assignment and Quiz due dates will post to Canvas under Modules and Assignments. Information regarding each activity and assignment will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor via the class GroupMe.

Module	Readings	Activities	Assessments
<b>Module 1:</b> <i>Introductions &amp; The Playwright</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Syllabus</b></li> <li>2. <b>Chapter 6: <i>The Art of Playwriting</i></b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductions</li> <li>2. Class Overview</li> <li>3. Bullet Point Reading</li> <li>4. Production Team Assignment</li> <li>5. Script Development</li> <li>6. Read Chapter 6 &amp; <i>Last Ride: A Sample Writing Activity</i></li> <li>7. Develop the Following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Equation for Conflict</li> <li>b. Formula Plot</li> <li>c. Original Script</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<b>Activity:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BPR: Course Syllabus</li> <li>2. Create a Script within Production Teams</li> <li>3. Present stage reading in class</li> </ol>

<b>Module 2:</b> <b>Theatre Literacy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chapter 1</b> <i>Theatre, Art and Entertainment</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 2</b> <i>Stage Versus Screen</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 3</b> <i>Theatre of the People</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3</li> <li>Defining Art</li> <li>Stage Vs. Screen – A Writing Activity</li> <li>Application of Chapter 3 Terms</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz:</b> Chapters 1, 2 & 3 <i>Lockdown Browser is Required</i>
<b>Module 3:</b> <b>Experiencing and Analyzing Plays</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chapter 4</b> <i>Experiencing and Analyzing</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 11</b> <i>The Musical</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapters 4 &amp; 11</li> <li>2pg. Theatre Review using either Goethe or Aristotle's Framework</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz:</b> Chapter 4 Chapter 11 <i>Lockdown Browser is Required</i>
<b>Module 4:</b> <b>Creativity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chapter 10</b></li> <li><i>Creativity</i></li> <li><i>Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 10</li> <li>Behavioral Profile</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz:</b> Chapter 10 <i>Lockdown Browser is Required</i>
<b>Module 5:</b> <b>Theatre as a Collaborative Art</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chapters 5</b> <i>A Day in the Life of a Theatre</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 7:</b> <i>The Art of Acting</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 8:</b> <i>The Art of Directing</i></li> <li><b>Chapter 9:</b> <i>The Art of Design</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapters 5, 7, 8 &amp; 9 &amp; <i>Play script (TBD)</i></li> <li>Creative Story Using Chapter 5 Terms</li> <li>Read Looks Get in the Way</li> <li>Character Analysis Activity</li> <li>The Director's Perspective</li> <li>Creating Costume Plates</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz:</b> Chapters 5, 7, 8 & 9 Final Project <i>Lockdown Browser is Required</i>
<b>Module 6:</b> <b>The Finale</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Play Script TBD</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Design Presentations:</b> In preparation for final presentations, production teams will present rough drafts of varied design elements related to their scenes. Draft presentation will feature the following designs: hair/make-up, costumes, set, props and production program. Design templates are on Canvas. Team members will also present a synopsis and an off book excerpt (2mins of the 5-7-minute scene).</li> <li><b>Final Presentations:</b> Each team will present an off-book scene (5-7 mins.) from a play while using props, costumes, hair &amp; makeup to demonstrate competence of semester course work.</li> </ol>	<b>Final Project</b>

		<p><b>3. Production Programs:</b> Production teams will submit a final draft of a production program before final presentations. Templates are available on Canvas.</p> <p><b>4. Final Designs:</b> During final presentations, production teams will be graded on the execution of their design drafts as it relates to their production program, set, props, costume, hair &amp; makeup.</p>	
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**Grading Criteria:**

- Participation/Activities: 9 Assignments @ 10 pts. ea. & 1 Assignment @ 50 pts. | **Total: 140 pts.**
- Quizzes: 4 Assessments @ 100 pts ea. | **Total: 400 pts.**
- Written Review: **100 pts.**
- Script Writing Assignment: **100 pts.**
- Chapter 5 Creative Story: **60 pts.**
- Final Project: **200 pts.**
- Bullet Point Reading: **50 pts.**
- **Overall Total: 1,050 pts.**

**Note:** Grades will post to the Grade Center on Canvas.

**Letter Grade Assignment**

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the total points earned and are assigned according to the scale below. Please note point value may increase through extra credit assignments.

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>
1,050 – 900 = <b>A</b>
899 – 800 = <b>B</b>
799 – 700 = <b>C</b>
699 – 600 = <b>D</b>
599 – 0 = <b>F</b>

**Viewing Grades in Canvas**

Points you receive for graded activities will post to the FAMU Canvas Grade Book. Click on the “My Grades” link on the left navigation to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been completed—typically 3 days following the completion of an activity.

## **Canvas Early Alert System**

Canvas data is a report that will permit advisors and academic coaches quick access to see a list of students who are 'at risk' of not passing this course. The purpose of this report is to assess your academic standing and develop a plan that will help you complete this course successfully.

## **Course Policies**

### **Attendance**

This is a 3 hour course. By University directives (see your University Catalog) you are allowed three unexcused hours in this course. If you accumulate 3 hours of absence, your final grade will not be affected. No questions asked. For 4 UNEXCUSED absences, your final grade will drop one step. For each additional UNEXCUSED absence, your final grade will be lowered another step. Three (3) tardies will result in an unexcused 1-hour absence. Each class attendance will yield one point towards students' overall grade.

**Excused Absences:** If you are absent, **YOU** are responsible for the material covered in class. If you miss an assignment, you must have an excuse from the Dean to make-up the exam or assignment. All excused make-up work must be completed within 10 school business days; otherwise the student will receive zero grade points for the missed assignment. Make up exams are issued at the end of the semester with a proper excuse.

If you know you are going to have an extended absence, please inform your instructor and the dean of your college as soon as possible before leaving, remembering that the only way an absence is excused is through your Dean's Office. This type of absence is on the official excused absence form available from the Office of the Dean of your college. Informing your instructor of your absences as soon as possible is appreciated, but again the only way an absence is excused is through the Dean's Office. If you miss an assignment and do not have an excused absence, you will automatically be given a grade of "F". If you miss an assignment and do have an excused absence, talk to your instructor about making up the work. The course covers so much territory and is so fast-paced that we generally do not have time for makeup work.

### **Attendance Holds**

For the "Attendance Hold" to be removed the first week of school, you are required to submit a signed course contract and submit on Canvas.

### **Assignments**

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from the instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade. 3 points will be deducted each business and weekend day that the assignment is late.

If you are having trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, be sure to inform the instructor as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

### **Written Assignments**

Due to the Gordon Rule, all written papers and/or reviews are satisfactorily completed to receive a passing grade. Incomplete assignments are highly discouraged. The student's required attendance at theatrical productions and subsequent written reviews will yield an exciting clinical experience in practical and constructive aesthetic and technical criticism. If not assigned to see a show, a video of a theatrical presentation will be offered. These critiques and or reviews are to be 2 full pages in length. Papers are submitted on Canvas.

Students will view a stage production, TBA, and develop a 2 pp review paper while using **one** of the topics below:

- *Discuss the Theatrical Production Using Goethe's Analysis*
- *Relate Aristotle's Six Elements to Theatrical Production*

Stage production title and/or link will post to Canvas.

### **Paper Requirements**

**Font:** Times New Roman, Size 12

**Page Margins:** 1" Left, Right, Top, & Bottom

**Pages:** 2

**Spacing:** Double

**Format:** Introduction, Body & Conclusion

### **Late Work Policy**

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and the instructor's approval. 3 points are deducted each day an assignment is late.

### **Dropping This Course**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping a course. Refer to the FAMU Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons include: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving students unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

### **Incomplete Policy**

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete or "I" will only be assigned if the student is passing with a grade of C and all supporting documentation is submitted. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within the first five weeks of the next semester.

### **Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All assignments must be original work, clear and error-free. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources.

### **FAMU's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures**

"All members of, and participants in, the academic life of the University are to be governed by academic honesty in all of their endeavors. Students and faculty are expected to uphold academic integrity and combat academic dishonesty".

Read more about FAMU's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Each voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of diverse backgrounds, experiences, values, and beliefs. Please honor the human differences of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Respect the perspectives and identities of others and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. Please let me know if there is something said or done in the classroom, by either myself or other students, that is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense; or if there is any way that I might improve the class atmosphere.

### **Course Expectations**

**Start of Class Regarding COVID-19**

As you enter class, I expect that each of you is wearing a face covering that covers your mouth and nose. Please also be sure that you are following our seating arrangement. It is also important to remember that face coverings are expected to be worn in any University building or public space in which social/physical distancing cannot be observed. These behavioral expectations are in place to promote the safety of our entire community.

### **Course Communication**

Course communication will be done on Canvas and GroupMe. You are required to join the class GroupMe chat and leave the chat unmuted. It is highly recommended that you check Canvas and GroupMe daily for course updates.

The best way to contact me is by GroupMe or email, [evelyn.tyler@famu.edu](mailto:evelyn.tyler@famu.edu). I will respond to all messages within 24 hours.

### **Learning Management System (Canvas) Etiquette**

1. Respect others and their opinions. In online learning, students from very different backgrounds come together to learn. It is important to respect their feelings and opinions even when they are quite different from your own.
2. Watch your language and tone carefully. When you are communicating online, you have to rely solely on words to get your point across. The other person cannot see your facial expression or hear your tone of voice, so things like sarcasm and humor often don't come across very well. That's why it's important to take your time, choose your words carefully, and be as straightforward as you can.
3. Consider people's privacy. Always ask for permission before you forward someone's email messages to somebody else, and if you do reuse somebody else's words (with their permission), make sure to acknowledge them appropriately. Keep in mind that all private email mail is considered copyrighted by the original author.
4. Avoid inappropriate material. It's tempting to forward messages you find clever or links to websites you find entertaining to classmates. If they are not directly relevant to the course, please don't do this, especially if the material is sexually suggestive, politically sensitive, or otherwise "edgy." Same goes for frivolous "joke" emails and chain messages. This is not the place for it.
5. Be forgiving. If someone writes something that you find offensive, mention it directly to the instructor. He or she is best equipped to address the situation. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion might be new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may have been unintended.
6. Be concise. When you are contributing to a discussion, be as brief as you can to get your point across. Adding a lot of unnecessary words just makes your message less clear. Try to stick to the point and not go off on irrelevant tangents.
7. Read first, write later. Don't add your comments to a discussion before reading the comments that are already there. And if you are responding to a previous comment, always make clear which comment you are responding to.
8. DON'T TYPE IN ALL CAPS OR USE EXCESSIVE PUNCTUATION!!!!!! Most people find this annoying and you may not be communicating your thoughts effectively.
9. Think before you hit the send button. Learning to be your own editor is a difficult and important skill. Think carefully about the content of your message before you send or post it. Once you push the button, there is no taking it back. Grammar and spelling errors reflect badly on you, and misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences can make it hard to decipher your meaning accurately.

### **Academic Support**

#### **Accommodations**

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Center for Disability Access and Resources](#) (CEDAR) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to CEDAR and meet with a CEDAR counselor to request special accommodation before classes start.

CEDAR is located at 667 Ardelia Court, Tallahassee, FL 32307 and can be contacted by phone at 850.599-3180.

**Writing Resource Center**

The [Writing Resource Center](#) is a writing lab that will help you further develop the foundational writing skills needed to successfully and effectively communicate in writing.

**Library Support**

To access quality information and resources, please visit [FAMU Library](#). Computers are also available for use.

**Office of Instructional Technology**

For assistance with Canvas operational and/or technical issues, please visit the [Office of Instructional Technology](#).

**Office of Information Technology Services**

For email, password (iRattler, Canvas, etc), and computer/laptop issues, please visit the [Office of Information Technology Services](#).

**Academic Coaching**

Academic coaches can help you develop positive learning behaviors thus developing improved academic performance. To learn more about academic coaches, please visit the [Undergraduate Student Success Center](#).

**Student Counseling Center**

If you are in need of counseling services, please visit the [Office of Counseling Services](#). This office is a confidential space for you to express concerns about your personal and academic life.

**Career Center**

Are you unsure of your major, seeking an internship, or need assistance with professional branding, please visit the [Career Center](#).

***Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to provide student guidance on the type of content and activities that will be covered in this course throughout the semester. It will be followed to the extent possible. However, modifications may be made to supplement and/or enhance student learning.*