

Clarendon College
Liberal Arts Division: Drama Department

1310 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER COURSE SYLLABUS **SPRING 2025**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rodney Donahue, Associate Professor of Drama

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OFFICE: HSFA 102 (My office is in the auditorium; please direct someone to point you there.)

CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-1 Thursday 11-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to other art forms. Participation in productions may be required.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This course partially satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, and the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This course centers upon class lecture and discussion. Discussion is essential for the exchanging of ideas and a greater understanding of the content. Therefore, questions will be asked in order to make a more complete learning environment. It is essential for the student to read the class assignments as a basis for the class. Videos, other materials, and a lab component will serve as part of the instructional process.

THECB CORE OBJECTIVES

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all Drama courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT): to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills (CS): to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Teamwork (T): to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility (SR): to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze theater through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.
* Assesses CT with Final Project.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theater history and dramatic works.
* Assesses CS with Final Project.
3. Describe the collaborative nature of theater arts.
* Assesses TW with Final Project.
4. Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.
* Assesses SR with Final Project.

GRADING POLICIES

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 59 or Below = F

There will be a total of 100 points in this class.

Activities	40 points	40%
Essays	40 points (4x10)	40%
Final Project	20 points	20%
Total	100 points	100%

1. Activities: 40 points. Worth 40 points, activities involve completing assignments during class. Actively take part in class discussions and eliminating outside distractions. Failure to do so will result in the loss of a point. Resting in class will result in the loss of a point. Conversations not associated with the learning environment will result in the loss of a point. For each point lost beyond the first 40, additional points will be lost beyond the purview of activities.

2. Essays: 40 points. Worth 10 points each, four essays explore plays in unique and challenging ways.

3. Final Project: 20 points. Worth 20 points, the final project will determine your capacity to work as a team in this course. Teams will be assembled following the essay submissions. Teams will be established at the discretion of the instructor. Members of class work together in order to complete a final project of the highest caliber.

All written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical errors, double spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides, and 12-point font, Times New Roman style; this part of the syllabus is in 12-point Times New Roman, so all of your papers should look like this. All of the essays are included in the back of this document. Failure to subscribe to this will result in the failure of the assignment.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Students must take a final. The time for the final is published at the beginning of each semester and will be administered during the scheduled final exam time.

LAB PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Lab component participation and class attendance is required and expected. All absences validated by doctor's notes, Clarendon College Personnel requests (Coaches, Deans, etc.), and instances of extreme emergency as determined by the instructor will be considered excused. All other absences are unexcused. It is vital for the education of the student as well as others for each to participate in class discussions and to be involved in the learning process.

WITHDRAWAL

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on our transcript instead. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of "F" on your transcript. A student is permitted to drop a course if he/she obtains an official drop slip from the office and has the instructor sign the slip before the 12th class week.

Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th course, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Disruption of the learning environment will not be tolerated for any reason. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion, **(that is, working with others)**; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment **(including other students)**; (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; (5) taking an examination for another person; (6) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (7) altering grade records; (8) using any unauthorized form of electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; (9) Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit. Disciplinary actions for academic dishonesty in a course are at the discretion of the individual instructor. The instructor of that course will file a report with the Vice President of Student Affairs when a student commits academic dishonesty in the course, whether it be a workforce or academic course. The report shall include the course, instructor, student's name, and the type of dishonesty involved. Students who are reported as academically dishonest to the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services more than once shall be disciplined by the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. The Executive Vice

President of Instruction and Student Services will notify all involved parties within fourteen days of any action taken.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

DROPPING A COURSE

A student who is enrolled in a developmental course for TSI purposes may not drop his/her only developmental course unless the student completely withdraws from the college. A student may drop any other course with a grade of "W" any time after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar (April 10, 2025). The request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by procuring a drop form from the Office of Student Services. (Refer to other policies concerning this issue in the current college catalog online.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE

When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from school before the end of the semester, he or she should obtain a withdrawal form from the Office of Student Services. Students may also withdraw from the college by sending a written request for such action to the Registrar's Office. The request must include the student's signature, the student's current address, social security number and course information details. Students who withdraw after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar (April 10, 2025) will be assigned a grade of "W."

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed here and on the College website at:

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

The role of Clarendon College is to encourage individuals of all ages to develop their skills and talents based on their abilities and interests, so that collectively they may contribute to the growth and development of this democracy. College policies, procedures, and regulations are formulated to promote an appropriate teaching and learning environment where each student has the freedom to learn and where the constitutional rights of others are protected.

The concept of rights and freedom, no matter how basic or widely accepted, carries with it corresponding responsibilities. Students, as well as other members of the college community, enjoy the same constitutional and civil rights guaranteed all citizens; at the same time, they are subject to the laws of the nation, the State of Texas, and the local community. All members of the college community have a strong responsibility to protect and maintain an academic climate in which the freedom to learn can be enjoyed by all. To this end, certain basic regulations and policies have been developed to govern the behavior of students as members of the college community.

Violations of student conduct regulations will be handled through the Office of the Vice President of Student Services. Violations of federal, state, and/or local laws make a student subject to civil or criminal action in addition to disciplinary action by the College. Each student is responsible for knowing the policies and regulations of the College.

Freedom of Expression

The rights of free speech and peaceable assembly are fundamental to the democratic process. The College supports the rights of students of the college community to express their views and opinions on actions or ideas, to associate freely with others, and to assemble peacefully.

Whether expressing themselves as individuals or in organized groups, members of the college community are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, according to law, and to respect the basic educational goals of the College. Accordingly, the College insists that free expression not violate the rights of others. Disruption of the educational process and functions of the College, or violation of law, would constitute such a violation.

Students wishing to assemble must complete an official request with the Vice-President of Student Services. The institution reserves the right to determine the time and location of such assemblies in order to ensure that the educational process is not disrupted. The use of amplified equipment is prohibited in student assembly and speech. The institution will not tolerate hate speech, defined as "...the lewd and obscene, the profane, the libelous, and the insulting or 'fighting' words – those which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace." (Chaplinsky vs State of New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 1942)

Freedom of Access

Within the limits of its resources, Clarendon College shall be open to all applicants who are qualified according to current admission requirements. Clarendon College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, age, or sex in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services, programs, and activities.

Freedom of Association

Students are free to associate to promote their common interests. They have the right to seek, through official procedures, and establish organizations of their choosing so long as such are not in conflict with the educational purposes of the College. Students have the right to affiliate with officially recognized campus organizations of their choice, within the requirements of those organizations relative to membership.

Academic Rights of Students

The College has the responsibility of providing a program of quality education in keeping with its financial resources; students have protection through campus-designed procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. Student performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students are responsible for completing their academic program, being familiar with all requirements of the College Catalog, and for maintaining their grade point average for degree requirements.

Student Records

Student records are maintained in confidence and in compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission retention schedule. Student records are used to promote the instruction, career development, guidance, and educational progress of the student. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-380, as amended, the student has access to specific information contained in his or her official records as specified by that act. Student records may be released to other persons, agencies, or institutions with a demonstrated interest in the student only if a written release has been signed by the student. College staff shall have access to student records when there is a demonstrated educational interest in the student.

Student Participation in Institutional Decision-Making

The primary route of Clarendon College students in decision-making is through participation in the Student Government Association (SGA). Students also may be invited to serve on one of the various institutional committees. Student opinion of food services, student housing, student activities, etc., are gathered from a number of surveys. All student input, whether it be through organized clubs, committees, or questionnaires, is given serious consideration as suggestions for change in and improvement of the College.

Student Responsibilities

The Board of Regents of Clarendon College expects employees, students, visitors, and guests of the College to accept the following responsibilities:

- (1) Compliance with and support of duly constituted civil authority,
- (2) Respect for the rights of others and cooperation to ensure that such rights are maintained, whether or not one agrees with the views of those exercising such rights.
- (3) Cooperation to ensure that the will of the majority is implemented after due consideration, but not to include the suppression of the minority,
- (4) To exercise disagreement in a responsible manner and within a framework compatible with the orderly resolution of differences.
- (5) Knowledge of and active support of college regulations.
- (6) A person who is required to register under the Code of Criminal Procedures 62.152 must register not later than the seventh day after the date on which the person begins to attend school to the Director of Student Life as well as any other local law enforcement agencies as required by Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

In addition to the previously stated expectations and guidelines, students are expected to adhere to the following:

- 1) Grant respect to each other and to the instructor and respect shall be shown to you.
- 2) Refrain from using profane or obscene language at all times in coursework.

GRIEVANCE/APPEALS

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

LIBERAL ARTS FACE-TO-FACE POLICY

It is the policy of the Liberal Arts Division at Clarendon College that any student enrolled in a face-to-face Liberal Arts course must remain in the scheduled face-to-face course through the end of the semester unless the student chooses to drop the course. No student may choose to transition from face-to-face to remote or online. Extenuating circumstances that warrant a transition to online learning can override this policy if determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Division Chair and the course instructor. This transition will be communicated in writing to all parties: student, instructor, Division Chair, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

CLASS SCHEDULE (This schedule is tentative and subject to change)

1/21, 1/23: Syllabus & Policies; Student Introductions.

1/28, 1/31: Theatre and Film; Reading a Play.

2/4, 2/6: Creating the Dramatic Script.

2/11, 2/13: **Essay 1 Due.** Dramatic Genres.

2/18, 2/20: Theatre Spaces.

2/25, 2/27: The Audience.

3/4, 3/6: **Essay 2 Due.** Teamwork.

3/11, 3/13: Directing. Select Groups.

3/25, 3/27: Acting. Select Group Plays.

4/1, 4/3: Group Organization. **Dr. Donahue Pathways Conference.**

4/8, 4/10: Elements of Design.

4/15, 4/17: **Essay 3 Due.** Social Responsibility.

4/22, 4/24: Group Work.

4/29, 5/1: **Essay 4 Due.** Group Work.

5/6, 5/8: Group Work.

5/13: **Final Projects Due.** Period begins at 8am.

Introduction to Theater Essay Questions and Group Essay Questions

IMPORTANT NOTE: All paragraphs must be at least five sentences.

- Essay 1** What message does the playwright communicate to an audience with this play? Utilize **only one message** for this essay. (2-4 paragraphs) Back up your argument using specific examples from the play in each paragraph.
- Essay 2** Evaluate this play from the perspective of a theatre critic. What is being attempted by the playwright or production? (1-2 paragraphs) Have the intentions of the playwright or production been achieved? (1-2 paragraphs) Was the attempt by the playwright or production worthwhile? (1-2 paragraphs) Back up your argument using specific examples from the play in each paragraph.
- Essay 3** What is the role of the director in a play? Choose a concept for this play: realistic production, contemporized/modernized production, or a concept production of your choosing. Why would a director choose this concept? (1-2 paragraphs) How might a director stage this play utilizing this concept? Include how the director would communicate this concept to the scene designer and costume designer. (1-2 paragraphs) How would the director communicate with at least one actor (denote by character name; i.e., “Hamlet” and “Gertrude”) about how the actor should interact within the prescribed concept? (1-2 paragraphs) Back up your argument using specific examples from the play in each paragraph.
- Essay 4** Would this particular play effectively engage a local Texas audience? Why or why not? (1-2 paragraphs) Does the playwright use this play to encourage the treatment of others in a fair, nondiscriminatory, and ethical manner? Why or why not? (1-2 paragraphs) Back up your argument using specific examples from the play in each paragraph.

Final Project Rubric

Content: 60 Points

Section 1: 15 Points

Section 2: 15 Points

Section 3: 15 Points

Section 4: 15 Points

Content: _____

Essay 1: _____

Essay 2: _____

Essay 3: _____

Essay 4: _____

Teamwork: 20 Points

Management: 10 Points

Team Submission: 10 Points

Teamwork: _____

Management: _____

Team Submission: _____

Clarity: 10 Points

Readability: 5 Points

Spelling/Grammar: 5 Points

Clarity: _____

Readability: _____

Spelling/Grammar: _____

Organization: 10 Points

Title Page: 2 Points

Formatting: 8 Points

Organization: _____

Title Page: _____

Formatting: _____

Total: 100 Points

Total: _____