

Clarendon College  
Liberal Arts Division: Drama Department

## **1310 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER COURSE SYLLABUS** **SPRING 2026**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rodney Donahue, Associate Professor of Drama

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OFFICE: Instructional Building Office 204 (My office is upstairs in the main instructional building.)

CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 11-1; Wednesday & Friday 11-2

### **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**

Final Exams: The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Final%20Exam%20Schedules%2024-25.pdf>

Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams.pdf>

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> course, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

## **STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS**

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion;
2. discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;

4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. taking an examination for another person;
7. completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person;
8. altering grade records;
9. using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or,
10. plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

### **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](mailto: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**

Course Withdrawal--Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrollment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

3. This one is just a change to the link from before. The old link goes to an error page now.

The full details of Student Rights and Responsibilities policies can be viewed on Clarendon College's website at: [www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

### **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 9, 2026) will be assigned a grade of “W.”

### **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)

1/20, 1/22: Syllabus & Policies; Student Introductions.

1/27, 1/29: Theatre and Film; Reading a Play.

2/3, 2/5: Creating the Dramatic Script.

2/10, 2/12: **Essay 1 Due.** Dramatic Genres.

2/17, 2/19: Theatre Spaces.

2/24, 2/26: The Audience.

3/3, 3/5: **Essay 2 Due.** Teamwork.

3/10, 3/12: Directing.

**3/16-3/20: SPRING BREAK! No Classes**

3/24, 3/26: Acting. Select Groups.

3/31, 4/2: Elements of Design. Select Group Plays.

4/7, 4/9: Group Organization. **Dr. Donahue Pathways Conference 4/7-4/10**

4/14, 4/16: **Essay 3 Due.** Social Responsibility.

4/21, 4/23: Group Work.

4/28, 4/30: **Essay 4 Due.** Group Work.

5/5, 5/7: Group Work.

5/12 @ 8:00AM: **Final Projects Due.** Final Examination Period.

### **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: \_\_\_\_\_**