

Clarendon College
Liberal Arts Division: Drama Department

1310 INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ONLINE 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 study 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 assigned chapters as a basis for the discussions. Plays, 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 T 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. Grades will be calculated as follows:

90 - 100:	A
80 - 89:	B
70 - 79:	C
60 - 69:	D
00 - 59:	F

Essays	40 points	(4x10)	40%
Activities	40 points	(10x4)	20%
Final Project	20 points		20%
Total	100 points		100%

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

2. Activities: 40 points. Worth 2 points each, 10 lessons will contain one activity that signifies completion of the activity. These activities must be accomplished in a punctual manner and will be used to determine participation in the course.

3. Final Project: 20 points. The Final Project will determine your capacity to work as a team in this course. Teams will be established at the discretion of the instructor. The goal of the final project is to successfully examine a single play. This investigation will allow students to demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes and core objectives in Introduction to Theater. Members of an online class work together in order to complete a 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. You will be given the required content for each response. 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>

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

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

REQUIRED ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION ACTIVITY

Students who fail to complete the Syllabus Agreement & Enrollment Verification Activity by the official census date (February 4, 2026) may not be able to continue in the course. This could result in an F for the course and forfeiture of Financial Aid. The census date for this term can be found on the Academic Calendar located at the Inside CC link on Clarendon College's home page.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is mandatory in all online courses. Specific activities will be identified each week or during each chapter that must be completed in order for students to be considered "in attendance." Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and failure of the class. These assignments will be marked as "Activity" in the online course.

MY ATTENDANCE POLICY

For this course, I will submit an attendance report each week and on the census date. Students who are following the online attendance policy are marked "present."

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.

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 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 Enrolment 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.

LATE WORK AND TIMELINESS OF SUBMISSION

Essays are due at any time on the due date, Central Time; this submission will count for full credit. Essays have a three-day rule: for Essays not submitted on time, students will have three days to submit the essay. Essays received more than three days after the initial due date will not

be accepted **for any reason**. **Activities** submitted after the due date will not receive credit.
Group Essays will not be accepted early or late **for any reason**.

DRAM 1310 ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule includes all graded activities with their due dates. It also identifies which activities must be completed to be considered “in attendance.” If due dates change, you will be notified through the Course Announcements in the Student Portal and via Moodle message.

***Denotes activity used to determine weekly attendance**

Course Lesson and Activity	Value	Due Date
Syllabus and Class Policies		
*Activity 1	2/100	1/22 R
Theatre and Film; Reading a Play		
*Activity 2	2/100	1/29 R
Play Reading		
*Essay 1	10/100	2/5 R
Theatre Spaces and the Audience		
*Activity 3	2/100	2/12 R
Creating the Dramatic Script; Six Parts of Drama		
*Activity 4	2/100	2/19 R

Dramatic Genres

*Activity 5 2/100 2/26 R

Essay 2

*Essay 2 10/100 3/5 R

Acting

*Activity 6 2/100 3/12 R

The Director**Design and the Theatre**

*Activity 7 2/100 3/27 R

Essay 3

Essay 3 10/100 4/2 R

Group Essay Introduction

*Activity 8 2/100 4/9 R

4/16 R

Essay 4

*Activity 9 2/100 4/23 R

Essay 4

10/100

4/30 R

Group Project Evaluation

*Activity 10

2/100

5/7 R

Group Project Submission

Group Essay

20/100

5/12 T

Introduction to Theater Essay Questions and Final Project 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. (1-2 paragraphs) How would an audience respond to this play when it was first produced? (1-2 paragraphs) How do you respond to it now? (1-2 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.

Group Essay Rubric

Content: 60 Points

Essay 1: 15 Points

Essay 2: 15 Points

Essay 3: 15 Points

Essay 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: _____**