

THE 2000, Theatre
Appreciation, 10395,
3 Credit Hours
Online Fall 2024

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- Professor: James “Clint” Mahle (pronounced May-lee)
- Email: mahlej@nwfsc.edu ***Please use this email and not Canvas for direct communication.**
- Phone: 850-729-6007
- Office Hours: 9:00am-10:00am Mon.-Fri. by appointment
- Office Location: Mattie Kelly Arts Center Bldg. 100 - 124
- Class Location: Online
- Class Days: Online
- Class Times: Online
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: Please refer to the Canvas calendar.
- **Please Note: Bold text is meant for importance. Please don’t interpret it as me yelling. Although all the information in this syllabus is important, the bold text covers information that students have had problems with in the past.**

Course Description

THE 2000 Theatre Appreciation, 3 credit hours, is an introduction to theatre and theatrical production. Topics span a wide range of interest – critical, historical, aesthetic, and practical – intended to lay a foundation for further knowledge, appreciation, and skill in theatre. This is also a Gordon Rule writing course and is part of the college’s “Writing-Across-the-Curriculum” (WATC) program. A minimum grade of “C” is required if used to meet Gordon Rule requirements for general education. In addition, this course meets the “Speaking-Across-the-Curriculum” (SATC) requirements where a speech will be given during the week of final exams. Concerns regarding Writing-Across-the-Curriculum and Speaking-Across-the-Curriculum requirements should be addressed with the instructor.

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Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

Course SLOs:

1. To become aware of basic terminology in theatre scripts.
2. To become aware of the performance elements presented by theatre scripts.
3. To become aware of the technical elements presented by theatre scripts.
4. To recognize the historical periods of theatre and their plays.
5. To explore humankind's role in theatre using play scripts as an expression of the cultural and human experience.
6. To encourage individual exploration in theatre.

Humanities SLOs:

1. Identifying values found in the Humanities of various cultures. (WATC)
2. Analyze aspects of artistic & human expression in the Humanities of various cultures and articulate informed responses. (WATC)
3. Identify and explicate key elements of the Humanities through formal speaking assignments. (SATC)
4. Identify and explicate key elements of the Humanities through formal writing assignments. (WATC)
5. Analyze an approved Humanities topic in a verbal presentation. (SATC)

College SLOs:

1. Communication: Demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing.
2. Critical Thinking: Apply reflection, analysis, synthesis, logical reasoning, and evaluation to formulate judgements, reach decisions, and solve problems.
3. Information Literacy: Find, evaluate, organize, and use information accurately and effectively.
4. Cultural Engagement: Participate actively as informed and responsible citizens in social, cultural, global, and environmental matters.

Course Prerequisite

A passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of "C" or better, or exemption from placement testing.

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Course Materials

1. Edwin Wilson & Alvin Goldfarb. Theatre: The Lively Art. Eleventh Edition. McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2016. *Note: If using Connect through the publisher, you only need access to the textbook to complete the course. The Connect assignments are not used in this course. Also be sure to obtain the proper access code. The trial code will have an expiration date.
2. Supplementary Reading depending on your research for the playwright paper and presentation.

Class Attendance

1. Students who stop attending class, or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus, may receive a failing grade which may impact the receipt of federal aid in subsequent courses. Students traveling for college approved activities will not be penalized academically but will be responsible for missed work.
2. Since this is a completely online course, attendance will be assessed according to the acknowledgement of receipt of this syllabus and the class assignments and through school email if assignments are not completed. **If acknowledgement of email is not received, you may be reported as non-attending as well as not turning in assignments. PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND A REPLY ONCE AN EMAIL IS RECEIVED.** Students who stop attending class or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus may receive a failing grade. An "F" may impact the receipt of federal aid in subsequent courses. Students traveling for college approved activities will not be penalized academically but will be responsible for missed work.
3. Students are expected to participate regularly in this online class. The most successful online students set a schedule to log on to the course on a weekly basis. Failure to log-on and submit an assignment 1 time per week may result in a penalty of **5 points per day it is late. Work that is two weeks late will receive a grade of zero.**

Attendance Confirmation

Active participation and academic engagement are expectations of enrollment in this course. Faculty confirm each student's attendance in class after the schedule adjustment period ends. Students who have not attended class or otherwise engaged academically in the course

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through the submission of an academic assignment or through participation in a curricular activity may be withdrawn from the course for nonattendance.

Students who are withdrawn for nonattendance or nonparticipation early in the course may request to be reinstated in the course by contacting their instructor by email. Reinstatement in the course is at the instructor's discretion during the first three weeks of class and is not guaranteed. Reinstatement requests occurring after this three-week period may be submitted to the instructor for consideration; however, additional administrative approval will be required to grant the reinstatement. If you are withdrawn from a course due to nonattendance and are not granted reinstatement in the course, please contact a Student Success Navigator for assistance.

Classroom Conduct

Netiquette Statements

1. Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people.
2. When you engage peers in conversation through any discussion in this course, keep in mind that it is academic conversation that should reflect the characteristics of professional communication. This not only includes complete sentences and the best grammar and spelling you can manage, but it also includes tone. Be aware of tone in all classroom communication and treat one another respectfully and well in these forums.
3. All communication in the course, including emails, should be carefully thought out, drafted, and edited as though it is being published for an audience. The expectations in an academic environment are that students will write aim to write clearly, concisely, and professionally, editing for tone, grammar, and spelling prior to posting their work.

Tone

1. Be sensitive to the fact that there will be cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
2. Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity is also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
3. Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses as this is considered

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“shouting” on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.

4. Be respectful of your others’ views and opinions. Avoid “flaming” (publicly attacking or insulting) other students as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view included in a discussion topic.
5. Every day may feel like casual Friday in an online classroom where you don’t see anyone in person, but a certain level of formality is still expected in your communication with instructors. In addition to proper punctuation and spelling, it’s good netiquette to use respectful greetings and signatures, full sentences and even the same old “please” and “thank you” you use in real life.
6. As a rule of thumb, do not include insensitive digital images, link or articles that could violate the other etiquette points laid out in the syllabus or other documents within the course.

Structure

1. Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
2. Always make an effort to use proper punctuation, spelling and grammar. Trying to decipher a string of misspelled words with erratic punctuation frustrates the reader and distracts from the point of your message. On the other hand, it’s important to be reasonable about others’ grammar mistakes. Nobody likes the grammar police and scolding a classmate because he or she used “your” instead of “you’re” isn’t practicing proper netiquette.

Plagiarism and “Fact-Checking”

1. Include all references and cite sources according to syllabus guidelines to avoid plagiarizing resources.
2. Understand that all students have the potential to view your discussion posts. While each student is responsible for confirming information, when sharing your points of view ensure the accuracy of the information to avoid confusion within the discussion.
3. Refrain from including links to external sites and software that are questionable in nature- this can mitigate the dangers of students downloading harmful files that could potentially infect their computer, thus impacting their ability to participate in the discussion/course.

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Best Practices for Discussion Replies

1. Take some time to read through each of the previous discussion post responses before writing your own response. If the original post asked a specific question, there's a good chance someone has already answered it. Submitting an answer that is eerily similar to a classmate's indicates to the instructor that you haven't paid attention to the conversation thus far.
2. Remember, discussions can move fairly quickly so it's important to absorb all of the information before crafting your reply. Building upon a classmate's thought or attempting to add something new to the conversation will show your instructor you've been paying attention.

Grading Scheme and Procedures

Assignments will come from a Syllabus Acknowledgement form, Theatre Appreciation Questionnaires that will be provided as well as an essay, a play critique, a final research paper, and final speech presentation. The speech presentation can be either in person by appointment or recorded, uploaded to YouTube, and a link sent to me. The grading scale is as follows:

100 – 91 A
81 – 90 B
71 – 80 C
61 – 70 D
Below 60 F

The following are the percentages of each assignment for your final grade:

1. Syllabus Acknowledgement form = 5%
2. Questionnaires = 35%
3. Play Critique = 15%
4. Significance of Theatre Essay = 15%
5. Research Paper = 15%
6. Speech Presentation = 15%

*****Please note: This course requires a minimum of 3,000 written words as part of college Writing-Across-the-Curriculum policy. If you do not meet this requirement, passing the course is impossible. Therefore, not completing the written assignments will result in a grade of "F." Also, the Speech presentation is part of college Speaking-Across-the-Curriculum policy. Failing to complete this assignment will also have dire consequences.**

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Make-up Work

Make-up and late work may be allowed provided that a viable reason explains missing a deadline. This allowance should be initiated by the student.

***** INPORTANT!!! Unfortunately, my willingness to accept late assignments has been abused in the past. Therefore, to avoid getting all or most of the assignments in the last week of classes, I have been forced to create a penalty for late assignments. Currently, the course is organized for one assignment per week, due on Friday. The penalty for late assignments will be minus 5 points per business day (not class day) it is late. I will however, waive the penalty for assignments #1 & #2 to give you time to obtain you're the play.**

Instructor Communication

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check College email regularly for any class and College notifications.

Email

Please email me directly at mahlej@nwfsc.edu and not through Blackboard. Email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your college email regularly for any class and College notifications. I will endeavor to respond to all inquiries within 1 business day.

Assignment Grading

I will endeavor to complete the grading of assignments within the week after they are due.

Phone

I will endeavor to respond to all phone calls within one business day. Please be sure to include your number in the voicemail.

Assignment Schedule

Please see schedule in Canvas.

All assignments are through Canvas, our online learning platform. If there are any problems, please contact me. **Please note: There are 15 assignments to complete.**

Please do not, I repeat, do not submit any assignments in the "pages" format. All I get when opened is computer code. You are best served if you submit your documents as an Adobe PDF file.

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1. Digital submission of a Syllabus Acknowledgement form stating that you have read and understand the information contained here. This a contract. If questions are asked where the answer can be found here, I will refer you back to it.
2. Assigned reading from textbook, answering appropriate questionnaire, and submitting to Blackboard for grading. Please answer all questions in complete sentences. There may be questions that are not found directly from the text. Do not leave these questions unanswered. Outside research may be needed. If you have any questions, please call or email.
3. An essay discussing your opinion on the “significance” of theatre (750 word minimum). Identify values found in the theatre of various cultures. Analyze aspects of artistic and human expression in the theatrical history of various cultures, and articulate informed responses as to how such expressions reflected their values. This essay is a reflection of your ideas and opinions. Grammar and punctuation will be part of the grading along with proper expression of meaning and sentence structure. Grammar and punctuation mistakes will cost one point each. Meaning and sentence structure points will depend on the impact the mistake makes on the paper in terms of understanding and clarity. It is important to keep it simple and direct and then proof the paper more than once. If you have a problem fulfilling this requirement, please contact me.
4. See a performance of a live theatrical production to attend in your area. You are required to write a 750 word critique. It is a completely subjective essay about your opinion on the play as presented. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Do you consider it a good play? Why?
 - b. What messages, themes, and point of views does the play express? Give examples.
 - c. What do you believe was the playwright’s intention in writing the play? Did the production succeed in representing it?

***Note: A live performance is recommended. However, if you cannot find one, YouTube is an acceptable alternative. If a performance off the internet is used, please include a link to it in your paper.**
5. Compose a formal research paper (1,500 word minimum) on a chosen playwright and one of their plays, from the list below or one of special interest to you, in which information is organized clearly and logically, and demonstrates the conventions of Standard American English. This paper covers the same information as the speech and is chiefly concerned with the “impact the playwright and the play may have had on his/her time.” The paper is good organizational preparation for the final speech presentation. It will require research outside the scope of the textbook. Any assertions established by other scholars or notable professionals must be properly documented and notated

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according to MLA standards. Be sure to include a bibliography with at least three sources outside of the textbook (Four total).

***Note: Spark Notes and Cliff Notes are not an acceptable source. They will be seen as proof the play has not been read. You will also need to buy one of the playwright's plays which will be one of your sources.**

Playwrights

Edward Albee	J.M. Barrie	Marsha Norman	Wendy Wasserstein
Samuel Becket	Bertolt Brecht	George Bernard Shaw	August Wilson
Caryl Churchill	Brian Friel	Tom Stoppard	Henry David Hwang
Athol Fugard	David Mamet	Tennessee Williams	Amiri Baraka
Arthur Miller	Eugene O'Neill	Ntozake Shange	Sam Shepard

Your paper and speech should include the following information:

- a. The name of the play
 - b. The name of the playwright
 - c. A very short synopsis of the play
 - d. The main characters of the play and their relationships
 - e. What impact the playwright or the play may have had on his/her time
 - f. The reason the playwright wrote the play
 - g. Why you chose the playwright
 - h. The affect the play had on you
6. The final exam for THE 2000 – Theatre Appreciation will be a 3 – 5 minute speech covering the information from your research paper. Since the class is completely online, you may elect to make an appointment to present your speech in person, record your speech and submit it, or upload it to YouTube, and send me a link. Please check the link to make sure I will be able to access it from the site. I have been sent links at the last minute and was unable to access the speech. This will not be considered a reason for missing the speech presentation. An outline organization may be used. Do not, however, present your speech as a reading of the formal paper. If you wish to make an appointment, it must be made no later than the due date above. The last possible time for an appointment is 4:30pm. If you have a problem completing this assignment, please contact me. If you choose to submit a recording of your presentation, it is due by the date above.
7. Note: I no longer accept submissions by email.
8. The following information (rubrics) will be used to evaluate your presentation:

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- a. Language choices are imaginative, memorable, and compelling, and enhance the effectiveness of the presentation. Language is appropriate to audience.
- b. The central message is compelling (precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported).
- c. Supporting materials (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.
- d. Organizational pattern (specific introduction, sequences material within the body, transitions, and specific conclusion) is clearly and consistently observable and is skillful and makes the content of the presentation cohesive.

*****Remember, if you have a problem fulfilling this requirement, please contact me.**

*****If you use the e-book from the publisher's website, all you need is access to the textbook to complete this class.**

*****IMPORTANT!!! Please get into the habit of checking your college email. Due to student privacy policy, it is the only way I am allowed to contact you on class issues. It should be the primary email for all issues regarding this class.**

Technical Skills and Specialized Technology

This course is fully online. Students must provide their own device(s) with which to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter any technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

Emergency College Closure

In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. If the College closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college re-opens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized as a result of the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

Academic Continuity Plan

Northwest Florida State College is dedicated to protecting the health and wellbeing of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/email use and other items included in the *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the current *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action. NWFSC prohibits the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to generate text that students represent as their own independent creation.

Academic Integrity Tools

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to **Turnitin**, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students are consenting to upload their papers to **Turnitin**, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to **Turnitin** may be saved as source documents within these databases solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

Student Dispute Resolution

NWFSC aims to deliver high-quality instructional experiences. In the event of a concern regarding a class, students should first attempt to resolve the matter with the instructor. If a resolution cannot be reached following a reasonable effort to resolve the dispute informally, students may seek out additional counsel in Academic Leadership through a formal process by submitting a Formal Grievance/Appeal form. Students seeking to file a Final Grade Grievance must do so within 30 days of the final grade being posted.

Campus Resources

The College is committed to offering quality resources to aid in your success as a student. Review your LMS online classroom for information on these resources such as the library, tutoring, testing, military and veteran services, etc.

Accommodation Resources

To obtain disability-related academic accommodations, students with disabilities must contact the Accommodation Resource Center at arc@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6014. Upon request of accommodations, students will be asked to provide medical documentation that supports their disability request. If students are concerned that they may have an undiagnosed, disability-related condition that impacts their academic progress, it is recommended that they see a licensed medical professional for a diagnosis. Please contact the Accommodation Resource Center with any questions or concerns relating to permanent or temporary student disabilities.

Students who have been approved for accommodations through the ARC are encouraged to work with their professor on facilitation. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Student Counseling Services

Northwest Florida State College has partnered with Bridgeway Center, Inc. to provide mental health resources and counseling services to all actively enrolled students. All actively enrolled students are eligible to receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student. A menu of services and resources is available at www.nwfsc.edu/studentcounselingservices. Bridgeway Center Confidential Helpline: (850) 833-7500, Select Option 1 - Open 24 hours/day

Student Handbook

The complete NWFSC Student Handbook can be found at <https://catalog.nwfsc.edu/>

Welcome to Class

(Modify as desired to close with a welcome to students with well wishes for a successful semester.)

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!