



RANGER COLLEGE  
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

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COURSE SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE**

**DRAM 1310**

**3 credit hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Emily McLemore**

INSTRUCTOR: Emily McLemore  
EMAIL: emclemore@rangercollege.edu  
OFFICE: by appointment, RCEC

### **I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose**

***Texas Foundational Creative Arts Component:*** Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

### **II. Course Description**

Introduction to Theatre is a survey of theatre including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to other art forms.

### **III. Required Background or Prerequisite**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### **IV. Required Textbooks**

*Theatre: The Lively Art*. Eighth edition.

9780073514208.

*The Norton Anthology of Drama*. Shorter Second Edition.

9780393923407

### **V. Course Purpose**

As an introduction to theatre, this course will be a fast-paced interactive look at theatre from Ancient Greece to modern times. Throughout the course students will work on projects related to eras of theatre history and play production. Students will be expected to reflect on the assigned readings and topics of discussion in written form as well as recorded presentations.

### **VI. Learning Outcomes**

- Analyze theatre through written responses to play texts and/or live performance.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of theatre history and dramatic works.
- Explore the collaborative nature of theatre arts.
- Demonstrate the relationship of the arts to everyday life as well as broader historical and social contexts.

## VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## VIII. Methods of Instruction

This is a multimedia class. Media include lectures, discussions, class activities, in class presentations, videos, electronic documents (.pdf, .doc), PowerPoints, MP3s, podcasts, webcasts, et cetera.

- Students will engage in diverse project-based learning activities which will require teamwork and collaboration.
- Students will engage in individual activities in order to demonstrate their competence toward individual performance, organization, and academic accountability of core objectives.
- Students will be expected to use **BLACKBOARD** as the primary means of communication for this course. This syllabus, course announcements, discussion posts and threads, exam and assignment grades, project information and any other information you may need will be posted on Blackboard.

## IX. Methods of Assessment

- **Class participation (20 percent of total grade) (PR, COM)** – This includes regular attendance and participation in class discussions, including required posts uploaded to the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Strong class participation does not mean simply “talking a

lot” in class. It means speaking in an informed way about the readings, synthesizing the comments of others, and listening with respect and attention to the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of your peers. You will receive a class participation grade at the midpoint of the semester and again at the end, based on your attendance and active participation, as well as your completion of, or failure to complete, any given assignments.

- **Quizzes and Theatre-In-Action Prompts (20 percent) (PR, SR, TW)** – Careful examination of assigned readings is essential for this reading-and-discussion-based course, so you will be held accountable for completion of the reading assignments. Quizzes will assess your knowledge and understanding of what you have read, focusing especially on plot structure and dramatic elements as related to the world of theatre. At times, in lieu of written quizzes you will be given the opportunity to create “Theatre-In-Action” responses to showcase your learning in a tangible form such as a voice over slideshow or short video.
- **Production Project (20 percent) (CT, COM, SR)** – You will complete a project over the reading of Agamemnon OR The Tempest. This is an interactive project that requires you to not only read the play but to then examine it as if you were to perform/produce the play.
- **Mid Term Exam (20 percent) (CT, SR, PR)** – There will be a midterm exam focusing on dramatic structure, Greek Theatre, Agamemnon, acting basics and any additional material that we have studied up to that point.
- **Final Project (20 percent) (CT, COM, SR, PR)** – For your final exam, you will create a production project over a play from the textbook. You will develop a production theme and create a plan for marketing, costuming and set.

Grading scale: A = 90-100%    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = Below 60

## X. Course/Classroom Policies

The following rules and guidelines about classroom behavior are to be memorized, internalized, and strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will negatively impact your experience of this class, not to mention your grade.

1. **Arrive on time.** Class begins promptly at the scheduled time. This means you should be in your seat and ready to begin.
2. **Always bring the assigned reading to class.** If there is an assigned reading on a given class day, class time will be devoted to discussing that reading. We will also read some things aloud together. In order for you to participate in close readings and discussions, it is imperative that you have in hand all of the assigned texts for each day, including printouts (preferably annotated by you) of any texts provided electronically.
3. **Come to class prepared.** You are expected to participate in class discussions and come to class meetings having completed all assigned readings and written work.
4. **Turn in assignments on time.** By accepting this syllabus, you agree to accept a score of zero on any late work.
5. **Don’t cheat.** Any assignment reflecting cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero. A second instance will result in automatic failure of

the class and a report being filed with Ranger College’s Vice President of Instruction. The consequences of this report can be quite severe for your academic future. For more details, see the section of the Ranger College Catalog (available at [www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf](http://www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf)), titled “Student Misconduct,” subsection “Academic Dishonesty.”

6. **Six absences = Dropped from class with a failing grade.** I expect you to attend class regularly. As per Ranger College’s stated absence policy in the general college catalog (see pages 25-26 at <http://rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf>), the only absences that will be excused are “official” ones, defined as those that occur due to authorized Ranger College activities (such as sporting events). Unofficial absences are counted from the first day of class as listed in the College Calendar, regardless of the date of your registration.
7. **Email:** I am happy to communicate with you by email and will do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week. Messages sent over the weekend will be read on Mondays. In the subject line of any email that you send me, please indicate the content of the email. Then begin your message in the following manner:

Dear Mrs. McLemore

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in your intro to theatre class.

### XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Reading assignments and the dates of exams and written assignments are subject to revision as needed. I will announce all revisions in class, post them on Blackboard, and do my best to make sure that everyone knows about the changes. If you miss class, you are still responsible for submitting assignments according to any revisions that we make to the schedule.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
1	Jan 16	Introduction and Class Expectations. What is Theatre?
2	Jan 23	Plot Structure
3	Jan 30	Pantomime and Improv
4	Feb 6	Voice, Diction and Acting
5	Feb 13	Book Promo Presentations
6	Feb 20	Greek History

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7	Feb 27	Agamemnon Discussion: Ethical Considerations and Observable Facts
8	March 6	Mid Term Exam
9	March 20	Play Production: Costume, Construction, Marketing, Set Design
10	March 27	Shakespeare and The Tempest Discussion
11	April 3	Theatrical Genres: Comedy
12	April 10	Realism and Modern Drama
13	April 17	Musicals: Just for Fun or Social Commentary?
14	April 24	Musicals: Stage vs Screen
15	May 2	Experimental Theatre
16	May 8	<b>Final Exam Project</b>

**XII. Non-Discrimination Statement**

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

**XIII. ADA Statement**

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.