
THEA 4387 01

Workshop: Creative Dramatics

CRN: 81977 Fall 2017
TR 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM / PAC 184

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Office Hours: Sign up on office door

*Choose to have fun. Fun creates enjoyment.
Enjoyment invites participation. Participation focuses attention.
Attention expands awareness. Awareness promotes insight.
Insight generates knowledge. Knowledge facilitates action.
Action yields results.
—Oswald B. Shallow*

Catalogue Description

Fundamental theories and elements of creative drama, with emphasis in developing and guiding creative drama activities such as storytelling, improvisation, rhythmic and interpretative movement, puppetry, theatre in education techniques and pantomime. The course is designed for prospective teachers grades K-12. **Writing Enhanced.** Credit 3.

Course Description

Increasingly, theatre artists are finding opportunities to work with arts, cultural, social, and educational agencies as “teaching artists,” and educators and activists in a variety of settings (schools, museums, prisons) are seeking ways to tap into the educational and transformative possibilities of the arts. This class emphasizes drama as teaching methodology in any classroom and other educational settings. While this class focuses on the use of drama with children and youth, the facilitation and drama techniques can be applied in a variety of settings, and the course is designed to be of value to classroom teachers, actors, directors, writers, as well as recreational and community service workers interested in learning to use drama to educate or promote social change.

This is an **Academic Community Engagement (A.C.E.)** course in which you will not only learn skills for performance, but also actively apply these skills as you collaborate on a production that will make a difference in our community. This experience will help you see yourself as a positive force in town and expand your understanding of how theatre artists are citizens of change. **We will be going off-campus for this class. It is required of all students.**

Course Goals:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Articulate the importance of drama in the field of education.
- Connect drama to multiple forms of expressing and receiving experiences, ideas and feelings.
- Connect the use of drama to theories of teaching and learning.
- Demonstrate ability to design, implement, and evaluate activities and lesson plans with sound pedagogical objectives and curricular goals.
- Explain choices for activities and lesson plans with sound ethical and pedagogical justifications.

Classroom Etiquette

I believe that students learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning. I also believe in a creating a classroom atmosphere that is participatory, active and interactive, as well as cooperative and supportive. I expect you to help maintain that classroom atmosphere by attending every class, participating in activities, and remaining collegial with your classmates.

We are working to develop a class dynamic built on respect and communication. Laptops need to stay off, meaning you will need to print out all or part of the PDF readings for class. If you bring a snack, well, you better have enough to share. Cell phones stay off (not vibrate, OFF). No texting, IM-ing, or reading texts or IMs. **We'll also be physically interacting, so we have to be respectful of the way we interact.**

Texts

You will have required readings, posted as PDFs to Blackboard from *Drama and Education* (van de Water, McAvoy, Hunt).

Recommended Reading

- Augusto Boal, *The Theatre of the Oppressed*
- Augusto Boal, *Games for Actors and Non-Actors*
- Nellie McCaslin, *Creative Drama in the Classroom and Beyond*
- Michael Rohd, *Theatre for Community Conflict and Dialogue*

Grade Breakdown	Points
Participation/Reflection Cards	200
Theatre Company Education Report	50
Starter Leadership / Self-Evaluation	150
Elem. Dramatics / Leadership / Self-Evaluation	300
Peer Observation	50
Elem. Lesson Helper	50
Practical Course Reflection	100
Play Attendance Teacher's Guide	100
	1000 TOTAL

GRADING SCALE	
900-1000 pts	— A
800-899 pts	— B
700-799 pts	— C
600-699 pts	— D
599 and below	— F

Bonus Points

4 points for attending each of the five UTC fall productions = 20 points max (show me ticket stubs)

You will get an Assignment Packet detailing each assignment.



CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance Policy: By university policy for classes that meet two times each week, you may not be penalized for up to 3 absences, nor may you be penalized for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance.

- After 3 absences, you will be penalized 1/3 letter grade from your final course grade for **each** additional absence, unless there is written communication (email with specific dates, times, and reason) from the Dean of Students Office. Example: 5 absences turns a B into a C+.

However, more than 8 absences, for any reason, and you will not pass course.

You cannot miss outreach days.

Classroom Conduct: Participation is often essential to your success in the college classroom, but in this class it will be imperative.

- I expect you to leave any negativity or low energy you might be feeling at the door. Even a single day with a bad attitude or a reticence to participate in class could be catastrophic to your learning process, and to that of the others in the class.

Classroom Readiness: Have all class material with you (including printed PDFs from Blackboard). Late work is not accepted. Dress comfy!

Talking with me: Great idea! Seriously, we are dealing with heavy topics and difficult work over the semester and checking in outside of class is always a good idea.

Weekly Schedule (including Topics and Assignments)

Week 1

R 8/24 Introduction to course, syllabus, assignments. What is Drama in Education // Creative Dramatics?

Week 2

T 8/29 Ideas about play and education. Starting Techniques. // **DUE: Read and bring in PDF Definitions**

R 8/31 Storytelling Techniques: Aspects/usefulness of storytelling
DUE: Read and bring in PDF Multiple Intelligences

Week 3

T 9/5 Storytelling Dramas/Linear and Practiced: Lessons for all ages

R 9/7 Storytelling Dramas/Process and Holistic: Lessons for all ages

Week 4

T 9/12 Theatre Companies and Starters // **DUE: Theatre Company Education Reports**

R 9/16 Lesson planning and leadership ideas

Week 5

T 9/19 STUDENT-LED STARTERS, Lesson Brain-storming/samples // **DUE: Student Led Starters**

R 9/21 STUDENT-LED STARTERS, Lesson Brain-storming/samples // **DUE: Student Led Starters**

Week 6

T 9/26 Lesson building techniques **DUE Read and bring in PDF Into the Story**

R 9/28 Story Lesson exercises in class with Vicky / Group School Lesson planning

Week 7

T 10/3 How we assess! // **DUE Read and bring in PDF Assessment**

R 10/5 Leadership and Facilitation

Week 8

T 10/11 **SCHOOL DRAMA 1 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 10/13 Performance Art and Non-linear Structures

Week 9

T 10/18 **SCHOOL DRAMA 2 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 10/20 Boal and Theatre for Social Change

Week 10

T 10/25 **SCHOOL DRAMA 3 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 10/27 Boal and Theatre for Social Change

Week 11

T 11/1 **SCHOOL DRAMA 4 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 11/3 Heroes and Problem Solving

Week 12

T 11/8 **SCHOOL DRAMA 5 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 11/10 Museum and Living Histories

Week 13

T 11/15 **SCHOOL DRAMA 6 (ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)**
 R 11/17 Teacher Packets Examples and Ideas

Week 14

T 11/22 Tech Day! Using technology to access young minds.
 R 11/24 **THANKSGIVING **No Class!**

Week 15

T 11/29 Final Reflection
 R 12/1 No class! DUE: Reflection/Play Teacher's Guide – Friday Dec. 2nd UTC office

The instructor reserves the right to change or alter the calendar to meet the individual and unique needs of the course. You are responsible for noting any and all changes to the syllabus.

***IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP
 TRACK OF PERSONAL DUE DATES, PRESENTATIONS
 AND MEETINGS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR***

Starter: _____
Starter Self-Evaluation: _____
School TEAM LESSON Meeting with Vicky: _____
School LESSON: _____
School LESSON Self-Eval: _



UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Any students found cheating on exams, or plagiarizing papers will FAIL the course.

Classroom Environment

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and peers with respect and dignity. Section 5.2.22 in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines classroom disturbances as any activity which proves distracting to the learning environment including but not limited to the use of cell phones or text messaging; the reading of materials (newspapers, magazines, texts) not assigned to the class; the use of profanity or abusive behavior toward the instructor or other students; having off-topic conversations which disturb or disrupt the learning environment; the use of computers and/or other electronic devices (Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) during classroom instruction, therefore, as a result, under no circumstances are cell phones or any other electronic devices to be used or seen during classroom instruction or examination. Even the visible presence of such a device during an examination will result in a zero on that examination. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during class. **Violations of the code of conduct will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the classroom and may at the instructor's discretion result in the student(s) being referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of Students.** Any assignments missed because of disciplinary action cannot be submitted for a grade.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.