

# Course Orientation (Syllabus)



## Course Orientation (Syllabus)

THEA 1013 - Introduction to Theatre

### Course Description

A dynamic introductory course which examines theatre analysis, history, dramatic structure, outstanding dramatic literature, and the various roles in theatre production including the playwright, actor, producer, director, the design team, production staff, and dramaturgy. Utilizes lecture, film review, play reading, live theatre attendance, individual projects, and group projects.

# Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Develop a deep and abiding appreciation for and understanding of theatre as an art form.
2. Actively participate in four of the essential areas of the theatre: playwriting, acting, design, and analysis.
3. Develop critical thinking about theatre as a product.
4. Understand the periods of theatre history and their relationship to playwriting.
5. Think critically about and write a knowledgeable analysis of theatre presentation and dramatic structures.
6. Appreciate the process of theatrical creation.

## Required Materials

Text/Reference: *Theatre in a Teacup* by Isaac Walters. Great Rivers Technology. 1st Edition, May 1, 2013 ISBN: 978-1-61549-673-0

This online textbook may be purchased from the UVU Bookstore or by going to the Great River Technology website. Step-by-step instructions to purchase the text online can be found [here](#)

[Actions](#)

## How This Course Works

Each week students will participate in online course materials by reading, viewing, discussing, working within groups, and submitting assignments.

Two of your seven papers will require attending two live theatre events in your area during the semester, so please plan ahead to meet your deadlines. **While many different types of activity may be considered performance not all are actually “theater” Therefore, please confine yourselves to actual scripted plays when doing your Performance Papers. These include musicals, comedies, dramas etc. but do NOT include music concerts, dance concerts, performance art, Thriller, ice skating shows, The Blue Man Group, street musicians and many other performance modes. The point of the class is to help you learn about theater and these other forms of entertainment, while enjoyable and often of high quality do not accomplish that end. Desert Star Playhouse in Salt Lake City is operated by dear friends of mine and is entertaining and enjoyable but is primarily parody of other scripted works. You may choose to**

**attend there for one Performance Paper only. For those who enjoy Opera that form may serve as the matter for one Performance Paper.**

If you live on the Wasatch Front there many venues for live theatre. These include:

UVU Department of Theatre Arts (Awarded best collegiate play, director, actress, costume and set design in the nation by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/American College Theatre Festival in 2013. So you are sitting on a goldmine and probably ought to attend a play here, if possible, and see why.)

BYU Media Arts, U of U Theater Dept. Weber State Dept. of Theater and Dance, The Covey Center for the Arts (Provo). Capitol Theater (SLC), Pioneer Theater Company (SLC), Sundance Summer Theater, The Echo Theater (Provo), The Hale Center Theater (Orem and Salt Lake), The Scera Theater (Orem), The Zion Theater Company (Utah Valley), The Castle (Provo), Pleasant Grove Players (Pleasant Grove), and others. Local high schools also do performances of plays and musicals but are generally not the level of quality of the others. You may attend these if you like however. For those of you living outside this area please try to see the best quality work you can. There is a lot out there to choose from.

One of the options for your individual culminating project requires the assignment to be video recorded, posted to a web hosting service such as YouTube or Vimeo, and then the link to the video needs to be submitted via the assignment. **It is highly recommended that you register with a video Web hosting service and become familiar with editing and uploading your video well ahead of the deadline.** Use whatever video recording technology you have readily available. The instructor is NOT expecting professional videography. Your best effort of submitting a representative video of your assignment will be sufficient.

## Communication

The best way to communicate with the instructor is through the Canvas Inbox. If you have a question about the course, chances are that other students will have the same question. The instructor will regularly monitor the Inbox and respond as quickly as feasible.

Additionally, there is a "Students Helping Students" discussion. This discussion is a place for students to help each other through the course.

**If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the Distance Education help line. The instructor or teacher's aid cannot help you with technical issues:**

Distance Education Help

Mon - Fri: 8am - 8pm

Phone: 801-863-8255

Toll Free: 1-888-425-4412

E-mail: [dehelp@uvu.edu](mailto:dehelp@uvu.edu)

# Grades

**Grading Scale : This scale represents your percentage of total points**

A	=	100-94%	B-	=	83-80%	D+	=	69-67%
A-	=	93-90%	C+	=	79-77%	D	=	66-64%
B+	=	89-87%	C	=	76-74%	D-	=	63-60%
B	=	86-84%	C-	=	73-70%	E	</=	59%

Assignments	Points	Percent
Major Assignments (2 @ 30 points each).	60	10
Minor Assignments (3 @ 5-10 points each).	25	5
Discussions (11@ 5 points each)	55	20
Culminating Individual Project (1 @ 50 points)	50	30
Major Papers (4 @ 30 points each)	120	30
Minor Papers (3 @ 10 points each)	30	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>

## Assignment Details

All assignments are to be completed and submitted online. This course has regular deadlines throughout the semester.

**Major Assignments** - These assignments will require students to spend significant time outside of the course thinking and participating in the activity. Additional people may be required in order to complete the assignment.

**Minor Assignments** -These assignments should be able to be completed within the context of the course relatively quickly. Minor assignments include the Dramatic Structure Quiz, the Assumptions activity and the Theatre Productions wiki and assignment pages.

**Discussions** - For each of the discussions, respond to the initial discussion prompt and check back to follow up on any further prompts that may develop in the discussion. It is important to respond by Wednesday of each week with your initial posts and follow up later in the week with your responses to fellow classmates to benefit from the full discussion. Posts to the discussion should be respectful and include supporting materials for your positions. It is okay to disagree. In fact, much learning occurs when participants disagree WHEN handled appropriately.

**Culminating Individual Project** - In lesson three, you will begin working on the assignment that will culminate with your finished project at the end of the semester.

**Major Papers** - These papers will require students to use evidence to support a position. They will require a thesis statement and should provide a cohesive argument. Major papers will include the two Script Analysis papers and three Performance Analysis papers. Major papers are expected to be 2-3 pages long, double spaced, maximum of one inch margins and 12 point font, and should use proper grammar and spelling.

**Minor Papers** - These papers will be opinion-based and should justify their position. Minor papers are expected to be 1-2 pages in length, double spaced, maximum of one-inch margins and 12-point font, and should use proper grammar and spelling.