The University of South Dakota  
College of Fine Arts  
Department of Theatre

SYLLABUS  
THEA 100 Introduction to Theatre

Instructor: Sandra Kern Mollman  
Email: access via Course Mail

Class Meeting: Online  
Semester: Spring 2019

3 Undergraduate Credit Hours

Course Description
Introduction to Theatre is an online course designed to enhance the student’s enjoyment and understanding of the theatrical experience. Play readings, readings from the text, and discussion acquaint the student with the history and techniques of the theatrical arts, as well as an understanding for how the elements of theatre work in our daily life and help us to create the world that we want to be.

Required Textbook

Contacting the Instructor
The best way to contact me is via the D2L mail, which can be accessed within the course. I will have “Virtual Office Hours” on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. I will respond to your emails at those times, and will do my utmost to respond to emailed requests within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekdays, or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekends. All emails will be responded to within 48 hours Monday through Friday. In an emergency type situation, you can email me at sandra.mollman@usd.edu.

Technology Requirements
The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the CE Online Orientation Packet (Online Orientation Guide). If you have technology questions and/or problems, please contact the ITS Help Desk at 877.269.6387, 605.658-6000, or helpdesk@usd.edu.

Aside from the requirements listed in the Online Orientation document, this course requires that you are able to view pictures and videos, and that you are able to listen to audio and video recordings that you will access through D2L.

Instructional Method
This course will be instructed entirely online via Desire2Learn (http://d2l.sdbor.edu). While this is an online class, this does not mean that it is a self-paced or correspondence-like course. Each week you will be required to complete tasks as outlined on the class schedule listed below.

Desire2Learn (D2L):
D2L will be used to facilitate all aspects of the course. In D2L, you will be able to:
- Communicate with your classmates and the instructor via discussions and course mail
- View lecture notes, photos, and videos
- Participate in virtual office hours
- Access additional materials not found in your textbook or your listening CD
- Access your course progress and grades
Expectations

Students

Students are expected to read, understand and abide by all policies and procedures outlined in this syllabus as well as those in the CE Online Orientation, which can be accessed from the “Getting Started” section on the course homepage. The latter contains important information about the various academic, student, and technical resources and services available at USD.

Students should expect to invest anywhere from three to eight hours per week in the course. This time will be largely occupied by viewing supplemental materials, participating in the weekly office hours and discussions, and by keeping up with the assigned weekly reading.

Instructor

The instructor will strive to provide timely feedback and, unless otherwise stated, will respond to all communications within twenty-four (24) hours on weekdays, or within forty-eight (48) on the weekends. The instructor will also endeavor to get to know the distant students and their needs while sharing time in this online semester. The instructor will also abide by all policies set forth in this syllabus and those by the CE Online Orientation, The University of South Dakota, and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Goals of the South Dakota System General Education Requirements

This class fulfills the following Goals of the South Dakota System General Education Requirements:

System General Education Goal: # 4 Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through the study of arts and humanities.

A. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience;
B. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.
E. Explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the literary or fine arts

System General Education Goal #5: Students will have a greater understanding of the fine arts as an expression of human imagination and creativity, and will understand the contribution of the arts to self-understanding and a more enriched life experience.

A. Students will be able to demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding.
B. Students will be able to explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the fine arts.

Course Goals: At the completion of this course students should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Goal:</th>
<th>Method of Assessment:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Define terminology and describe theories of the individual crafts of theatre</td>
<td>Exams, Discussions, Papers, Play Reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Define theatre as an art form</td>
<td>Discussion, Exams, Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience the theatre by attending a live performance</td>
<td>Review of Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critically discuss theatre productions</td>
<td>Play Reviews, Discussions, Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss the history of the theatre</td>
<td>Exams, Discussion, Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compare and contrast the major evolutions of the theatre</td>
<td>Exams, Discussion, Reports</td>
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General Course Requirements and Assessments
This is a three-credit course, which would normally constitute three hours of meeting time per week in a face-to-face class, plus homework, reading, and study time. The three hours of “meeting time” should consist of posting in the weekly discussions; reading the posts by your colleagues in the weekly discussion; self-assessment quizzes, viewing, reading, listening to the information contained within the Course Content. You will also be required to complete a final project (your choice of a live performance review, writing a short play, or designing 4 costumes for a show), and 3 exams.

Honor Code
You are required to complete, submit, and comply with the course Honor Code.

Ungraded Assessments
For each chapter, there is an ungraded review quiz over the assigned chapter to take prior to taking your graded quizzes and exams.

Graded Assessments: Quizzes and Exams
Each GRADED chapter quiz worth 10 points will be administered via D2L and will be graded as it is completed. Once graded, students will be able to go back into the quiz to view the feedback and correct answers. The quizzes OPEN at 12:01 am SUNDAY and CLOSE by 11:59 pm CT on THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY night.

Three exams worth (approx) 80 points each will also be administered via D2L. Exams will be returned within a week after the exam close date, or when the last exam has been submitted – whichever is later. Once graded, students will be able to go back into the exam itself to view the feedback. You cannot pass this class if you FAIL ALL EXAMS.

Graded Assessments: Written Assignments
There will be one final project (your choice: a review of a live production OR a design project OR writing a short play.

Graded Assessments: Discussions
For each lesson, there will be an associated discussion or group activity on topics for the lesson. You may be assigned into groups for these various activities. The discussions will be graded within one week after the discussion boards close. Participation in the discussions is required in order to pass this course. You may not pass the course on completion of exams alone.

Participation/Attendance
You will be expected to log onto and participate in the course a minimum of 3 times per week. Participation/attendance is of the utmost importance and will be measured in this course in three ways:

• Weekly Discussion Assignments
• Viewing ALL discussions posts available to you
• Completing quizzes and exams as assigned

IF:
1. More than two weekly discussion absence is recorded, and/or weekly graded quiz is incomplete
2. Discussion posts are not read

THEN:
The instructor may lower the student’s final grade by two (2) percentage points per additional absence. You cannot pass this class without participation in the online discussion and quizzes.

Course Point Total

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Three Exams</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 x 80 points</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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Note: the actual number of points in the course may vary from this model.
## Class Schedule:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Notes</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| One  (01/7-1/13) | Lesson: Your Introduction to Theatre Course | • Post Self-Introduction to Discussion  
• Contact Instructor Via D2L Email  
• Check out the Course Homepage NEWS!  
• Tour the D2L site and your textbook companion website |
| PART 1: THE AUDIENCE | Lesson: The Audience: Its Role and Imagination | • READ: Textbook Chapter 1 pg 2-25 |
| Two (1/13-1/20) | Lesson: The Background and Expectations of the Audience  
*January 16 is the last day to DROP course with 100% refund.* | • READ: Chapter 2 pg 27-43 |
| Three (1/20-1/27) | Lesson: Theatre Spaces: The Audience Views the Stage  
Exam One | • READ: Chapter 3 pg 45-65 |
| PART 2: THE PERFORMERS AND THE DIRECTOR | Lesson: The Performers and the Director  
Lesson: Acting | • READ: Pg 66-69  
• READ: Chapter 4 pg 71-93 |
| Four (1/27-2/3) | | |
| Five (2/3-2/10) | Lesson: The Director and the Producer | • READ: Chapter 5 pg. 95-121 |
| PART 3: THE PLAYWRIGHT and the PLAY | Lesson: The Playwright and the Play  
Lesson: Creating the World of the Play | • READ: pg 120-123  
• READ: Chapter 6 pg. 125-140 |
| Six (2/10-2/17) | Lesson: Dramatic Structure and Dramatic Characters | • READ: Chapter 7 pg. 143-167 |
| Seven (2/17-2/24) | Lesson: Theatrical Genres  
Exam Two | • READ: Chapter 8 pg 169-192 |
| Eight (2/24-3/3) | Spring Break | |
| Nine (3/3-3/10) | | |
| PART 4: The DESIGNERS | Lesson: The Designers  
Lesson: Scenery | • READ: Pg 194-197  
• READ: Chapter 9 pg 199-219 |
| Ten (3/10-3/17) | Lesson: Stage Costumes | • READ: Chapter 10 pg 221-239 |
| Twelve (3/24-3/31) | | |
| PART 5: The THEATRE TODAY | Lesson: The Theatre Today  
Lesson: Musical Theatre  
*April 1 is the last day to drop with a WD Grade* | • READ: Pg 262-265  
• READ: Chapter 12 pg 267-283 |
| Thirteen (3/31-4/7) | Lesson: Global Theatre Today  
FINAL PROJECT assigned | • READ: Chapter 13 pg 285-307 |
| Fourteen (4/7/4/14) | Lesson: Contemporary Theatre in the United States | • READ: Chapter 14 pg 309-334 |
| Fifteen (4/14-4/21) | FINAL PROJECT  
DUE 4/28 | |
| Sixteen (4/21-4/29) | FINAL PROJECT  
DUE 4/28 | |
| Seventeen (4/29-5/3) | FINALS WEEK  
Exam Three | • Final Exam |
Student Resources:
The University of South Dakota provides a number of useful services to students:

- **CE Online Student Orientation Document** ([Online Orientation Guide](http://myu.usd.edu)): This contains very important information related to the services provided by the University of South Dakota as well as the University policies. In it, you will find such information as:
  - Academic support services such as the library, writing center, proctor and testing information, book purchasing, etc.
  - Student support services such as advising and enrollment information, financial aid, student life, and counseling, etc.
  - Technology support services like technology requirements, ITS Help Desk contact information, discounts on computers and software, etc.

- **USD Portal** ([http://myu.usd.edu](http://myu.usd.edu)):
The USD Portal is your one-stop place for a majority of services offered to any student taking a USD course—like this course. You can access the following services from the “Academics” tab in the portal:
  - WebAdvisor
  - I.D. Weeks Library

- **The USD Writing Center** ([http://www.usd.edu/academics/writing-center](http://www.usd.edu/academics/writing-center)):
The USD Writing Center was established to provide writing assistance to students in order to help them become better writers. It is available on campus during regular business hours and online in the evenings. Please visit the URL above for more information.

University Policies

**Academic Integrity**
The University of South Dakota considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The University supports the imposition of penalties on students who have been adjudicated to have engaged in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook, and South Dakota Board of Regents policy 2-33 [www.sdbor.edu/policy/Documents/2-33.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/policy/Documents/2-33.pdf).

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, be:

a. Given a zero for that assignment.
b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
d. Dropped from the course.
e. Failed in the course.

**Freedom in Learning**
Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college or school that offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.
Disability Accommodation
Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class or as soon as possible after the diagnosis of a disability. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

Please note: if your home institution is not the University of South Dakota but one of the other South Dakota Board of Regents institutions (e.g., SDSU, SDSMT, BHSU, NSU, DSU), you should work with the disability services coordinator at your home institution.

Ernetta L. Fox, Director
Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center
(605) 677-6389
Web Site: www.usd.edu/ds
E-mail: disabilityservices@usd.edu

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence
The University of South Dakota strives to foster a globally inclusive learning environment where opportunities are provided for diversity to be recognized and respected. To learn more about USD’s diversity and inclusiveness initiatives, please visit the website for the Office of Diversity.