

### Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Spring 2024</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Dr. Jennifer Patterson</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>THEA 100</b> Introduction to Theatre	Email:	jenn.patterson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	<b>CRN 20558</b>	Office #:	2795
Classroom:	Room 3112	Office Hours:	Mon. 11:00-noon (Zoom)
Class Dates:	Feb. 12 through June 5		Tues. 11:00-noon (2795)
Class Days:	Tuesdays		Wed. 2:00-3:00 (2795)
Class Times:	1:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Office Phone #:	760-355-6846 (message only)
Units:	3 units		

### Course Description

The class focuses on the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to elements of the production process including playwrighting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. Students will also survey different periods, styles, and genres of theatre through play reading, discussion, films, and viewing and critiquing live theatre.

### Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society.
2. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical contexts in which theatre exists.
3. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances.
4. Identify and examine theatrical components in production.
5. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations.
6. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Patterson, James David. *The Seeing Place: an Introduction to Theatre*. Glenn Paul Press, 2009.

ISBN: 978-0-692-97340-0. [www.glennpaulpress.com/projects](http://www.glennpaulpress.com/projects)

This is an Open Educational Resource (OER) available through Canvas.

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

**Periodic Examinations** [100 pts possible]: The student will complete short, objective quizzes over assigned readings from the required textbook and classroom lecture material.

Missed examinations cannot be made up. Students who anticipate an absence should arrange to take the exam(s) early, before the date of the examination.

**Critical Analysis Essays** [50 pts possible]: Course Learning Objective #3 notes the student will “Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances.” During the course, students will be assigned to read specific scripts from different historical periods and, in class, students will watch a recording of a live stage performance.

Following the viewing of the live stage viewings, the student will develop and write a critical analysis essay comparing the written script to the performance. Critical analysis should include:

- Evidence of reading the entire play,
- Evidence of viewing the entire performance,
- Decisions made by the playwright,
- Decisions made by the director,
- Decisions made by the designer(s), and
- Will propose a change to improve the quality of the performance.

The Critical Analysis essays will be written in class following the stage performance. In addition to the student’s analysis, the essays will require:

- basic essay structure (introduction, body, and conclusion),
- correct English sentence structure and correct punctuation, and
- must be legible hand-writing.

**Theatre Project – Playwriting** [50 pts possible]: The student will develop and write a three-character, single location scene which runs approximately ten (10) minutes in performance.

- The scene must have a beginning, middle, and end.
- The scene must be typed according to the appropriate script format (available from the instructor).
- The play must use correct grammar and spelling (dialogue may be developed appropriate to Character/ Diction).

Points	Criteria
50	Student submission meets all requirements and is interesting/entertaining to read.

45	Three (3) actors required, single location, approximately ten-minutes to perform. Appropriate script format with five or fewer errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation.  [NOTE: Characters in a play can sometimes speak in sentence fragments, but they never speak in comma splices. All stage directions must be identified in italics.]
40	Three (3) actors required, single location, approximately ten-minutes to perform. Appropriate script format with no more than ten errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation.
30	Three (3) actors required, single location, approximately ten-minutes to perform. Appropriate script format with more than ten errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation.
25	Appropriate script format has been used, but the play requires more than three (3) actors and/or multiple locations.
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The script is considerably shorter or considerably longer than 10 minutes.</li> <li>• The script does not follow a standard play format.</li> </ul>

**Theatre Project – Acting** [50 pts possible]: The student will prepare and perform an assigned monologue before the class. The monologue must be delivered verbatim and make a clear attempt at characterization. The monologue must require 60-90 seconds to perform correctly. Two monologues are provided later in this syllabus. The student may present a different monologue only with prior instructor approval. A copy of the monologue must be provided to the instructor at least 48 hours in advance.

Monologues must be presented in the class period designated. Students who anticipate an absence should arrange to perform their monologues early. [ace-your-audition.com](http://ace-your-audition.com)

Points	Criteria
50	The student delivers the monologue without obvious error.
47	The student completes the monologue but with minor problems.
40	The student completes the monologue, but there are several obvious difficulties, errors, or false starts.
35	The student completes at least half of the monologue but cannot finish without prompting.



20	The student is unable to complete the monologue without significant prompting.
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**Theatre Project – Design** [50 pts possible]: The student will develop a floorplan for a scene from a selected script and design one costume for the same scene. The script must be selected from those scripts viewed in class:

- Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
- Everyman* (anonymous)
- The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
- A Doll’s House* by Henrik Ibsen

Points	Criteria
50	The student completes an interesting floorplan and submits an appropriate costume for a character in the scene selected.
45	The student completes a basic floorplan and basic costume design.
40	The student submits a floorplan which ignores audience sightlines.
35	The student submits a floorplan and costume design which evidence a rushed product.
30	The student submits a floorplan or a costume design, but not both.

**Out of Class Assignments:** The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Late or Make-up work will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on 31 May 2021.

**Course Grading Based on Course Objectives**

Periodic Examinations .....	100
Critical Analysis: <i>Oedipus Rex</i> .....	10
Critical Analysis: <i>Everyman</i> .....	10
Critical Analysis: <i>Merchant of Venice</i> .....	10
Critical Analysis: <i>A Doll’s House</i> .....	20
Theatre Project: Playwrighting .....	50
Theatre Project: Acting .....	50
Theatre Project: Design .....	50



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## Minimum Point Total for a Passing Grade of C: 225 points

**Warning:** The grades (points) in Canvas are not a true account of the student's status in the course. Dr. Patterson maintains some points separate from the Canvas grades.

### Co-Curricular Theatrical Opportunities

The student must score at least 60% on the in-class examinations to be eligible for these extra credit opportunities.

Option A: [20 pts possible]

Should the student have an opportunity to attend a theatrical production during the semester, the student may earn extra credit by preparing a two-page, typed critique of the production. The student should include the playbill/program or ticket stub with the critique. The critique must follow MLA formatting guidelines and demonstrate correct grammar and punctuation.

Option B: [possible points will vary]

Should the student have an opportunity to participate significantly in a local theatrical production (during the semester), extra credit can be awarded toward the final grade in this course. The student should complete a log of dates, times, and work completed in the production

### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will evidence a satisfactory level of knowledge of theatre history (Greek, Roman, Medieval, Elizabethan, 17th Century France, Melodrama, Realism, and Non-realism) through objective examination.
2. Students will evidence a satisfactory level of awareness of theatre production processes through specific projects in Playwrighting, Acting, and Design.
3. Students will demonstrate a familiarity with performance theory related to Acting and Directing.

### Course Policies

#### Decorum

In a normal class session, students are encouraged to participate and ask questions freely. However, in those class meetings wherein a stage production is being shown, students are expected to follow theatre attendance decorum. Students should remain seated, quiet, and attentive as a sign of respect for the actors performing. During a live stage production,

conversation or entering and leaving is considered rude and can easily break the concentration of the performers. Students need to comport themselves accordingly.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source.
  - Quoting from a source without identifying the quoted words with quotation marks is plagiarism.
  - Failing to provide accurate and complete bibliographic information for research materials (in-text citations and bibliographic documentation) is plagiarism.
  - The use of any AI-generation software is plagiarism.
- The student should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly cite a source, you must ask for help. There is no difference between accidental and intentional plagiarism.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) plagiarism;
- (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination;
- (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; and/or
- (e) using a commercial term paper service.

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## Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped from the Opening Day Roster by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. A student who fails to attend the second meeting of the class will be dropped on the Census Roster. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.
- It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details. The deadline to drop with "W" is **11 May 2024**.
- Dr. Patterson only drops students on the Opening Day Roster and the Census Roster.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

## Student Rights and Responsibility

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Students have a responsibility to behave in a civil and respectful manner in all class communications. Student privacy and personal space must be respected at all times.

## IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

A traditional Introduction to Theatre class and/or textbook is divided into two parts. One half of the class will cover History of Theatre and the second half will cover Theatrical Production.

This class will converge the two sections so we look at Theatrical Production elements along with the History of Theatre. The required, online textbook is set up in this format.

**\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***