

## THEA 100 – Introduction to Theatre

### Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Instructor Name:	Jennifer Patterson, PhD
CRN #:	CRN 20558	Email:	<a href="mailto:Jenn.patterson@imperial.edu">Jenn.patterson@imperial.edu</a>
Classroom:	Room 3112	Office #:	Office 2795
Class Days:	Tuesdays	Office Hours:	Mon. & Wed. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday 11:00-Noon Thursday (Zoom only)
Class Times:	1:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Office Phone #:	760-355-6486 (message only)

### 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 Learning Objectives for a Passing Grade

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.

**Essays:** The student will write four short essays to demonstrate reading comprehension and critical analyses. In each essay, the student is expected to use clear and correct English grammar and punctuation.

### California Common Core Standards, Grades 9-10 Writing Standards #4

The student will “produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.”

1. Type your analysis paper in MLA format, double-spaced, left-aligned, TimesNew Roman 12 pt. font.
2. The paper should be more than one page but not longer than two pages of text.
3. Make sure you include bibliographic documentation for the film selected. NOTE: **do not conduct any outside research.** However, any outside information included in the essay will require complete and accurate MLA citations and bibliographic documentation.
4. The student will save the essay as a Microsoft Word document or in PDF and upload the essay into Canvas (‘Assignments’).
5. Extra Credit is available for students who submit their essays for Tutor feedback. The IVC Tutoring feedback report should be uploaded along with the essay. Canvas is set to accept multiple submissions.

**Essay 1:** The student will demonstrate two analyses of *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles. The first part will demonstrate reading comprehension of the script. The second part will analyze the acting, set(s), and costuming of the performance viewed in class.

**Essay 2:** The student will demonstrate two analyses of *Everyman*. The first part will demonstrate reading comprehension of the script. The second part will analyze the acting, set(s), and costuming of the performance viewed in class.

**Essay 3:** The student will demonstrate two analyses of *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. The first part will demonstrate reading comprehension of the script. The second part will analyze the acting, set(s), and costuming of the performance viewed in class.

**Essay 4:** The student will demonstrate two analyses of *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. The first part will demonstrate reading comprehension of the script. The second part will analyze the acting, set(s), and costuming of the performance viewed in class.

**Theatre Project – Playwrighting** [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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The play has no discernable story arc.</li> </ul>
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**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.

**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 productions viewed in class.

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.
35	The student submits a floorplan which ignores audience sightlines.



30	The student submits a floorplan and costume design which evidence a rushed product.
25	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 Essays or Out-of-Class Assignments will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 30 May 2025.

### 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

Minimum Point Total for a Passing Grade of C: 230 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.

Dr. Patterson does not maintain Canvas Grades during Finals Week.

### 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.

### Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through *DSPS*, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

### 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.

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty or 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.

### 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 **10 May 2025**.
- 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.

### Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at [finaid@imperial.edu](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

### 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

Week	Topic
Week 1	The Seven Fine and Performing Arts
Week 2	Organized Theatre Beginnings
Week 3	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> by Sophocles
Week 4	Playwrighting
Week 5	Roman to Medieval Theatre
Week 6	<i>Everyman</i> / <b>Playwrighting Projects due</b>





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<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 7	The European Renaissance
Week 8	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> by Shakespeare
Week 9	Acting
Week 10	Romanticism, Melodrama, and Realism
Week 11	<i>A Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen
Week 12	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Theatre Movements
Week 13	Directing / <b>Acting Projects due</b>
Week 14	Theatrical Design
Week 15	Modern Theatre
Week 16	Final Examination / <b>Design Projects due</b>

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