

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus Spring 2020
INTRODUCTION TO THEATER – THEA 100 CRN: 11580

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2020	Instructor Name:	Deirdre Rowley
Course Title & #:	Introduction to Theater 100	Email:	deirdre.rowley@imperial.edu
CRN #:	21139	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	3112	Office #:	2792
Class Dates:	February 18 - June 12	Office Hours:	M/W 11:30-12:30 T 11:50-12:50 Thurs 12-1
Class Days:	Tuesday	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6484
Class Times:	1-4:10 pm	Emergency Contact:	Canvas Messaging
Units:	3		

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

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 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.

Public Service Message

- College level theatre courses are not necessarily easy. Look over the Student Learning Outcomes and the Course Objectives at the beginning of this syllabus. Look at the table of contents in the textbook. Yes, you will learn all of this material to pass the class.
- You want to purchase the required books. (Imagine choosing not to purchase a math or science or psychology textbook.)
- You will want to take notes in class. You will also want to take notes on the assigned textbook chapters as you read them. Flash cards are useful. Use these study techniques, and you will find the quizzes and tests are not difficult.
- You will want to attend every class unless you are actually ill. Due to the amount of material covered in each weekly class, missing class can mean catching up is a struggle. (Take a look at the table of contents in the textbook.)
- If your work schedule means you are unable to be in class from 1 – 4:10 pm, you will need to take this class another semester when your work schedule fits the class time.
- At the end of the semester, you will have seen a number of plays, tried acting, written an essay critiquing a live performance, designed a stage set, and designed costumes. You will understand theater terms such as wings, the grand drape, and aside. Indeed, you will have found the majority of the class fun.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

- Grades are weighted as follows:
 - Mid-Term – 25%
 - Final – 25%
 - Quizzes – 10%
 - Tests (Includes live performance assignment) – 20%
 - Weekly Play Assignments – 10%
 - Projects – 10%
- Extra Credit: There is no extra credit
- Note these are percentages not points.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

The following are required: (Use copies are fine.)

- *Another Opening, Another Show* 3rd Edition by Tom Markus, Linda Sarver, Frank Kuhn. Published by Waveland Press, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-4786-3727-1 (ebook is acceptable)
- *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring **ISBN-13**: 978-0822200659 (This is a play script, and the print version is required. You will be up and moving about when using this script.)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

- Assigned readings must be completed before coming to class to enable the student to join in class discussions and take quizzes in a knowledgeable manner.
- Students who arrive after an activity has begun cannot always be individually accommodated. If a class activity is underway and you arrive late, you may have to wait and watch until the

activity concludes.

- Hard copy late assignments may be brought to my office to avoid losing any more points than necessary.
- Do not email assignments. Emailed assignments are not accepted. Attachments are not opened. Emailing an assignment does not count as turning in an assignment – early or late.
- Plays:
 - Films of plays being studied will be shown in class. (See Class Calendar.)
 - Prior to viewing a play / film of less than 3 hours, the class has a short break to visit the restroom, check cell phone messages, and enjoy a bit of fresh air.
 - Three-hour plays/films are announced in advance and listed in the Class Calendar. Students should be in their seats ready to go when class starts, as 3-hour plays will start immediately.
 - Once a play / film has started Theater Rules are in effect: cell phones off and no talking. See “The Ten Commandments of Theatre Etiquette” on pages 206---207 of *Another Opening, Another Show*.
 - Students leaving class once a film has started do not return to class until the following week. (The classroom door opening and closing during viewing is very distracting.)
 - Plays (shown via film) will have assignments assigned after the play is shown. These assignments will be due at the beginning of the next week’s class.
 - Weekly play assignments are posted on Canvas.
 - Students will watch the Crash Course Theater videos posted online weekly. Information in these brief videos augment the textbook and questions on Crash Course Theater videos may appear on quizzes, tests, and exams.
 - Plays (shown via film and *Arsenic and Old Lace*) are illustrations of material discussed in class and read outside of class.
 - Questions on plays will be on quizzes, tests, and exams.
 - If absent, it is the student’s responsibility to make individual arrangements to view the missed play. Netflix, Amazon online film rental, YouTube, and Swank Digital Campus are possible sources. Some public libraries loan DVDs. The student is also responsible for any assignment attached to the play.
- Weekly Play Assignments:
 - Weekly Play Assignments require using information presented in the textbook.
 - Weekly Play Assignments are specific to an assigned film or reading. Assignments must be typed. (It is not always easy to decipher a student’s handwriting.)
 - A Weekly Play Assignment’s explanation and requirements are posted in Canvas online.
 - Some Weekly Play Assignments may require research. (Example: information on the playwright or an actor.)
 - Weekly Play Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
 - Late Weekly Play Assignments and other assignments such as costume designs and essays lose 5 points for each day late. This includes assignments submitted after class has finished at 4:10 pm.
 - Emailed assignments of any type are not accepted.
 - If a student is absent, the Weekly Play Assignment may be turned in when the student returns to class – with no penalty.

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- Weekly Play Assignments must be typed in MLA format. (This information is in the first online module.)
- Writing is expected to be college level: few if any grammatical or punctuation errors, paragraphs and essays must be well organized. (Concerns? Use Grammarly or the writing lab.) Poorly written material is often difficult or even impossible to understand.
- Weekly Play Assignments or any other assignment not meeting requirements earn half points.
- **Projects:**
 - Projects must be presented on the assigned due date, with the exception of proof the student was seriously ill. (Not..."I had a family emergency.")
 - Any project that does not meet the requirements earns half points.
 - A project must meet all requirements. Not meeting any part of the listed requirements means the project did not meet all the requirements and therefore earns half points.
- **Quizzes:**
 - Quizzes are seldom announced.
 - Quizzes are timed to avoid the class having to wait on one or two students to finish.
 - No notes, books, or online help may be used when taking a quiz.
 - Phones must be turned off and put away in a backpack or purse during a quiz.
 - Backpacks and purses must be next to or under your desk during a quiz – not in your lap.
 - Leaving class during a quiz means the student is finished with the quiz. The quiz will be picked up and put in the pile for grading.
 - Missed quizzes cannot be made up. (No exceptions)
 - Late arrivals may take a quiz already in progress but are not provide with extra time.
 - The lowest quiz grade is automatically dropped by Canvas.
- **Tests:**
 - All tests are announced in advance. (See Class Calendar.)
 - Tests are given a specific length of time to avoid the class having to wait on one or two students to finish. (If you don't know the material, staring at the question won't help.)
 - No notes, books, or online help may be used when taking a test.
 - Phones must be turned off and put away in a backpack or purse during a test.
 - Backpacks and purses must be next to or under your desk during a quiz – not in your lap.
 - Leaving class during a test means the student is finished with the test. The test will be collected and put in the pile for grading.
 - Missed tests may be made up within 5 school days of the date the test was originally given. Make-ups are in Professor Rowley's office with no penalty.
- **Live Performance Assignment (Grade included as a test)**
 - The course description includes "...viewing and critiquing live theatre."
 - Students will go to one live performance of their choice.
 - Professional theatre in San Diego or Mexicali
 - Community Theatre performance in the Imperial Valley
 - K-12 theatre performance in the Imperial Valley
 - Students will write an essay, word processed, submitted through Canvas, critically analyzing the performance. An assignment guide will be available in Canvas.

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- Students will submit the ticket or ticket stub and the playbill/theatre program as part of the assignment.
- Essay, ticket stub, and playbill/program must be submitted by week 14.
- Mid-Term and Final Exams
 - Exams are announced in advance. (See Class Calendar.)
 - No notes, books, or online help may be used when taking an exam.
 - Cell phones must be turned off and, in a backpack, or purse, on the floor next to your desk or under your desk – not in any way in contact with the student’s body.
 - Leaving class during an exam means the student is finished with the exam which will be picked up and put in the pile for grading.
 - A missed mid-term may be made up within 5 class days of the original exam date. This will be done in Professor Rowley’s office with no penalty.
 - As grades are needed ASAP at the end of the semester, the final exam may not be made up without hard evidence a student was seriously ill in hospital, physically incapacitated and unable to get to campus as a result, is under the supervision of federal agents, incarcerated, or was abducted by aliens.
- Grades will be available on Canvas 24/7.
 - Quizzes, under ordinary circumstances, may be posted in Canvas within 24 hours of the end of class.
 - Tests take longer to read and score and could take three or so days for the grades to appear in Canvas.
 - Assignments will be read, scored, and posted in Canvas before the following class.
 - As the grading system is percentages, not all assignments are equal. For example, a test score impacts the overall grade more than a quiz score.

- Department of Education Policy

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 for each hour in class per week over the span of a semester. Introduction to Theater is a 3-credit class. This means 3 hours a week spent in class and 6 hours a week out of class reading, studying assigned material, and completing assignments for a total of 9 hours . Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the accrediting commission for schools in California has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

- Grades are weighted as follows:
 - Mid-Term – 25%
 - Final – 25%
 - Quizzes – 10%
 - Tests – 20%
 - Weekly Play Assignments – 10%
 - Projects – 10%
- Extra Credit: There is no extra credit

Attendance

[Required Information:]

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. 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.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Why have tests, quizzes, presentations, projects, essays, and exams in a theatre class?

- These academic challenges show you, and me, what you have learned.
- Because this class focuses on providing new and detailed information about theater, you will be learning a variety of new ideas and concepts of which the average person is unaware.
- You will need to add to your knowledge of theater every week remembering what you have read and what has been presented in class.
- Therefore, it is essential to keep up with the class readings and assignments as well as reviewing past material on a regular basis.
- Tests, quizzes, presentations, projects, and exams will prove to you and to me that you have learned and understand the various aspects of theater required by the Theater 100 curriculum.

Classroom Etiquette

[Required Information:]

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Academic Honesty

[Required Information:]

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. You 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 "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- 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; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

[Required Information:]

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

[Required Information:]

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the [Disabled Student Programs and Services \(DSP&S\)](#) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

[Required Information:]

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information..

Veteran's Center

[Required Information:]

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

[Required Information:]

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid

assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

[Required Information:]

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College’s success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students’ access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC’s Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

[Required Information:]

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](#).

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Information Literacy

[Required Information:]

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

This calendar is tentative.

Week Class Date	<i>Another Opening, Another Show</i>	Plays shown in class.	Tests / Weekly Play Assignments / Projects	Crash Course Theater very short videos posted in Canvas.
Week 1 February 18	Ch. 1: What is Theater?	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> by Tennessee Williams	<i>Weekly Play Assignments are in the modules on the class Canvas site.</i>	CC#1: What is theater?
Week 2 February 25	Ch. 2: Aristotle Ch. 3: Dramatic Genres	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> by Samuel Beckett		CC #2: Origins of Greek Drama
Week 3 March 3	Ch. 4: Theatrical Styles	<i>Our Town</i> by Thornton Wilder		CC#3: Tragedy Lessons from Aristotle
Week 4 March 10	Ch. 6: The Playwright	<i>Oedipus</i> by Sophocles	Test #1 [Ch. 1; dramatic genre, theatrical styles; plays week 1-3 plus CC videos for weeks 1 through 3]	CC #4: Greek Comedy
Week 5 March 17	Ch. 7: Actors and Characters	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> scenes.		CC #5: Roman Theater
Week 6 March 24	Ch. 8: The Director's Impact	<i>Noises Off</i> by Michael Frayn		CC #14: Shakespeare's Early Works
Week 7 March 31	Ch. 9: The Designer's Vision	<i>Man of La Mancha</i> by Wasserman, Darion, & Leigh		CC #15: Shakespeare's Tragedies

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Week 8 April 7	Ch. 10: Putting It Together		Test #2 [Ch. 7, 8, 9; plays week 4 & 7; plus CC videos for weeks 4 – 7.] Costume Design Project – see modules	CC # 21: Moliere – Man of Satire and Many Burials
April 13-18	Spring Break			
Week 9 April 23-31		Troilus and Cressida by Shakespeare (3 hrs)		CC #28: The Rise of Melodrama
<i>Notes, the</i>	<i>textbook, and</i>	<i>returned assignments</i>	<i>on individual plays</i>	<i>are all exam study materials</i>
Week 10 April 28	Mid-Term Exam		Mid-Term [Includes plays week 8 & 9; plus CC videos for weeks 8 and 9.] Costume Design Project Due	CC #30: Race, Melodrama, and Minstrel Shows
Week 11 May 5	Ch. 13: The Curtain Rises	To Be Announced		CC #41: Harlem Renaissance
Week 12 May 12 <i>Last Week to Drop with a W</i>	Ch. 14: Backstage Revealed	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> by William Shakespeare (3 hrs)		CC #46: Why So Serious, Broadway?
Week 13 May 19	Ch. 17: Show Biz	<i>Kiss Me, Kate</i> by Cole Porter	Stage Design Project – see modules	CC #47: The Birth of Off Broadway
Week 14 May 26	Ch. 18: Musical Theater	HMS Pinafore by Gilbert and Sullivan	Test #3 [Ch. 13 & 14; plays week 10, 11, 12; plus CC videos for weeks 10 – 14.]	CC #50: The Book Musical
Week 15 June 2		<i>Oklahoma!</i> by Rogers and Hammerstein (3 hrs)		
Exam Week June 9	Final Exam		Stage Design Project <u>Due</u>	

*****Tentative means subject to change without prior notice*****