

# THTR 142: Introduction to Theatre

Randolph College Online

## **Professor Stephanie Earl**

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You may view this course syllabus on-line at the Randolph College portal at any time. The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies and assignments presented by the instructor during the course.

## **Required Text:**

*The Theatre Experience: 13th Edition* by Edwin Wilson

## **Supplemental Plays:**

*Antigone* by Sophocles

*Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare

*Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams

*A Raisin In The Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

*Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl

\* Any versions of these plays will be fine.

## **Course Objectives:**

- Learn the basics of Theatre as a “Fine Art”
- Cultivate a respectful understanding if not lifelong appreciation for Theatre
- Become a discerning and critical audience member
- Learn the basic origins of theatre
- Develop a basic understanding of how each aspect of theatre works toward the final product

## **Course requirements:**

**Attendance:** There will be a small number of online video chat meetings you will be required to attend (via Google Hangout). If you are unable to attend a meeting, you must EMAIL me PRIOR to the start of the meetings. *Any missed meetings without prior notification will result in a 3 point reduction of your final grade.*

**Tardies:** Any student joining online video chat meetings more than 5 minutes late will be considered tardy. 2 tardies will equal 1 absence (3 point reduction of your final grade).

**Participation:** It is not enough to simply show up to online meetings and online discussions. You will be required to respond in discussions frequently and specifically as a part of your participation grade.

**Classroom Manners:** Our online meetings will and should have a casual, open feeling. This doesn't mean that good classroom etiquette isn't expected. I expect you to take notes. You should be careful to listen attentively in support of your classmates.

**Grading:**

Participation	10% or 100 points
Quizzes	25% or 250 points
Production Critique	25% or 250 points
Play Response	15% or 150 points
Final Exam	25% or 250 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100% or 1000 points</b>

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%	F= 59 or below
A- = 90-92%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%	
	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60%-62%	

**Reading Assignments:** It is important that you read the assigned sections carefully and critically. Highlight/take notes/do whatever you need to do to be able to come to online meetings ready to discuss and debate the material IN DETAIL. Participation is dependent upon how well you bring thoughts and ideas from the reading to class discussion.

**Quizzes and Final Exams:** Quizzes and the final exam will include anything covered in reading, lecture, video clips, and class discussion.

**Play Responses:** There are five plays selected for this class. A written response is assigned for each of these works. Your assignment should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced.

**Production Critique:** You will be required to see 1 theatrical production *this summer* and turn in a paper critiquing your experience. You will need to provide a photo of a ticket stub or program with your paper. It should be a minimum of 2 pages long and a maximum of 4 pages, double-spaced.

### **THE HONOR PLEDGE OF RANDOLPH COLLEGE**

“I pledge absolute honesty in my academic work and in all personal relationships at Randolph College. I will maintain the integrity of my word, and I will respect the rights of others. Realizing that these standards are an integral part of life at Randolph College, I assume my obligation to uphold this honor pledge. If at any time I fail to live up to my obligation of this pledge, I will report myself to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee. I will also ask others to report themselves for any infraction of this pledge.”

### **DISABILITY, ILLNESS, OR INJURY**

If you have a disability, an illness, or injury that keeps you from learning to the best of your ability, there are services available that may be helpful. To learn more about these services, go to the “Just for Students” link on your Moodle Classroom Help menu or contact Diane Roy, Coordinator of Disability Services, in the Academic Services Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Lipscomb Library; at (434) 947-8132; or at [droy@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:droy@randolphcollege.edu).

### **TITLE IX**

At Randolph College, all College faculty are mandated reporters. In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, or stalking and specify that this violence occurred while you were a Randolph student, I must inform the College’s Title IX Coordinator, Sharon Saunders We do this to make sure you are able to get all the information and support you need. I understand you may not be interested in making a complaint at this time; however, I am required to report what you confide in me.

### **Class Schedule**

## Week 1

Watch Lecture #1: Welcome
Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles</li><li>- <i>The Theatre Experience: 13th Ed</i> by Edwin Wilson- Chapters 1-3 (p. 2-64)</li></ul>
Watch Lecture #2: <i>Antigone</i> and Chapters 1-3
Online Google Meet Session ( <i>all reading must be completed and both lectures must have been viewed before joining the session</i> )
Quiz #1
<i>Antigone</i> Response Due

## Week 2

Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare</li><li>- <i>The Theatre Experience: 13th Edition</i> by Edwin Wilson- Chapters 4-6 (p. 66-139)</li></ul>
Watch Lecture #3: <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> and Chapters 4-6
Online Discussion ( <i>all reading must be completed and both lectures must have been viewed before responding to the discussion</i> )
Movie Assignment
Quiz #2
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> Response Due

## Week 3

Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> by Tennessee Williams</li><li>- <i>The Theatre Experience: 13th Edition</i> by Edwin Wilson- Chapters 7-9 (p. 143-218)</li></ul>
Watch Lecture #4: <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> and Chapters 7-9
Online Google Meet Session ( <i>all reading must be completed and both lectures must have been viewed before joining the session</i> )
Quiz #3
<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> Response Due

## Week 4

Reading:

- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *The Theatre Experience: 13th Ed* by Edwin Wilson- Chapters 10-12 (p. 221-282)

Watch Lecture #5: *A Raisin in the Sun* and Chapters 10-12

Online Discussion (*all reading must be completed and both lectures must have been viewed before responding to the discussion*)

Quiz #4

*A Raisin in the Sun* Response Due

**Week 5**

Reading:

- *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl
- *The Theatre Experience: 13th Ed* by Edwin Wilson- Chapters 13-14 (p. 285-334)

Watch Lecture #6: *Eurydice* and Chapters 13-14

Online Google Meet Session (*all reading must be completed and both lectures must have been viewed before joining the session*)

*Eurydice* Response Due

Production Critique Due

FINAL EXAM