

Saint Leo University

FAS 110CL

Living the Theatre: Dramatic Skills for all Disciplines

Course Description:

If “all the world is a stage,” then everyone can benefit from the skills learned in the theatre. Theatre is a collaborative art form that calls on people with a wide range of skills and abilities to work together to create something special. Through active participation, students will learn the basic principles of performance, design, and operations alongside readings from selected works of noted playwrights and theatre practitioners. By working and studying in such an environment, students learn the applicability of theatre practitioners’ skills to life in the theatre and beyond.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook:

Arnold, Stephanie. *The Creative Spirit: An Introduction to Theatre*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. 2014. Print. ISBN: 978-0073514260

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will demonstrate a basic understanding of the many skill sets required for bringing a written play to production. Each student should complete the course having achieved passing grades on written comprehensive examinations, essays, and multiple hands-on projects, all of which will allow students to accomplish the following:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the artist’s process through examinations, quizzes, etc.
2. Develop a basic understanding of the place of arts in everyday life as a means of personal development.
3. Apply the critical thinking involved in aesthetics to other disciplines. These concepts and disciplines will include (but are not limited to) public speaking, practical mathematics (as applicable to scales/construction/design), basic literary analysis, and pragmatic operations models as they apply to the crafting of theatre in a practical world.
4. Apply the tenets of etiquette to both audience membership and interpersonal relations.
5. Engage in the artistic process to broaden understanding of the arts.

In addition, students will complete at least one project illustrating their comprehension of the place of theatre and arts in general in the living world.

Core Values:

This course will emphasize the Saint Leo University core values of personal development and community.

Personal Development: Saint Leo University stresses the development of every person's mind, spirit, and body for a balanced life. All members of the Saint Leo University community must demonstrate their commitment to personal development to help strengthen the character of our community.

Community: Saint Leo University develops hospitable Christian learning communities everywhere we serve. We foster a spirit of belonging, unity, and interdependence based on mutual trust and respect to create socially responsible environments that challenge all of us to listen, to learn, to change, and to serve.

Evaluation:

Points and grades for this course will be distributed as follows:

Graded Item:	Points	Weight
Discussions (8 @ 1.25% each)	120	10%
Assignments (7 @ 6.25% each)	700	43.75%
QEP Assignment	100	6.25%
Quizzes (3 @ 3.33% each)	90	10%
Midterm Exam	100	15%
Final Project	200	15%
Total	1,310	100%

Grade	Score (%)
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Discussions:

During each module, each student will participate in a discussion that explores how the arts interact with everyday life, improve everyday life, or even teach skills helpful in everyday life. The instructor will post the discussion question(s) on each of the eight Discussion Boards. These questions may include writings, performances, business practice exercises, or other topics that allow students to exhibit an understanding of the material at hand.

Initial posting: Student responses to the discussion question are due no later than **Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** of each module. Postings will reflect students' takes on the assigned material. They should be a minimum of 1-2 paragraphs in length, and be well-thought-out and well-written. Provide concrete examples from the readings to support postings. Integrate personal observations and knowledge in an accurate and highly insightful way.

Response postings: Students are expected to build the discussion by posting thoughtful and substantive interactive responses to classmates' posts. Simply agreeing or disagreeing with classmates' postings is unacceptable. Responses should be a minimum of 1-2 paragraphs in length. Two instances of interaction are required and more are encouraged. Interaction should include constructive (positive and negative) offered in a supportive, collegial spirit. The deadline date to post responses is **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** of each module.

Assignments:

During each module, each student will complete at least one hands-on project. Complete details can be found within each module.

QEP Assignment (Why Study Theatre):

The Saint Leo University Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) develops students' decision-making skills through applying critical thinking and the university's core values. Certain University Exploration courses instruct students in the QEP and allow them to practice with these ideas through a set of structured assessments. This class includes instruction in the QEP concepts and an assessment of the students' ability to apply these concepts within the academic discipline of the course.

The QEP is entitled *A Model for a Challenging World*. This QEP challenges students to use critical thinking and core values to lead to better decision making (CT + CV = DM). Please visit www.saintleoqep.com for more information about the history of the QEP.

For this assignment, students will draft a mock letter to a governing body detailing the importance of theatre to education. This assignment will be due in Module 8. Complete details and grading rubric can be found in Modules 7 and 8.

Quizzes:

Students will complete three quizzes consisting of multiple-choice questions covering the assigned readings.

Midterm Exam:

Each student will complete the Midterm Exam to determine comprehension of the pertinent material. This exam consists of multiple-choice and essay questions.

Final Project:

Each student will complete a final project expressing his/her understanding of the place of the arts within life and the community at large. This project may consist of any one of the following: a director's concept, a public relations project/mock marketing, or a costume or set design concept for Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water by the Spoonful* (pp. 40-5 in the textbook). Guidelines for the project are available in the Module 4 content.

Course Schedule:

Module 1 The Audience and Theatrical Origins

Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Apply the tenets of theatrical criticism to assess a performance piece (play or film).
- Identify and model proper audience etiquette.
- Identify the origins of the theatre.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read the assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 The Actor

Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Analyze a character and create a performance, which builds public speaking skills.
- Summarize the actor's process, and identify elements of that process that might be applicable to other disciplines.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3 The Director

Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Interpret a play from the director’s viewpoint.
- Model the director’s process and identify elements of that process that might be applicable to other disciplines.
- Identify some of the most important directors in theatre history and their contributions to the craft.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4 The Play

Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Identify the components of a well-made play and apply those elements to your own writing.
- Analyze a play to dissect deeper meaning.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 The Designers

Objectives

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Design a costume concept and create that concept in the real world.
- Interpret a play from the designer’s viewpoint.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Midterm Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6**The Administrators****Objectives**

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Formulate a marketing plan for a production.
- Identify the hierarchy involved in a theatre.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 6	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7**Theatre Today****Objectives**

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Identify current trends within the theatre today
- Predict future trends based on the theatre of the past and the present.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Complete self-quiz	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment 7	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8**You are the Artist!****Objectives**

At the conclusion of this module, students will be able to:

- Appraise the worth of theatre as a cultural necessity and formulate an argument for its continued existence as a course of study.
- Model a theatre artist in a culminating project based on the final assigned play.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit QEP Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Final Project	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT