Theatre, Level I (TH) 1B
Syllabus

Course Name

TH 1B

Theatre, Level I – Semester B

Course Information

TH 1B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

"On with the show!"

This semester, the focus is on the work of the director, the actor, the designers, and the playwright. This introductory course will help you understand the interactions between the people who create the performing art of theatre.

There will be a strong focus on reading and analysis skills because the theatre is an art based in storytelling. You will read a play for each of the first four lessons, and then in the last lesson, you will write a short play! Welcome to the theatre, storyteller!

The course features five lessons. Assignments include creative writing and design exercises, vocabulary development, creating a Theatre Portfolio, critical play reading, and a video-recorded performance of an acting scene.

Because there is a focus on play analysis in this course, I am including a review of the play analysis lesson found in TH 1A in the **Resources** section of this course. If you are taking this course without previously taking TH 1A, you will find this information critical. Feel free to refer to this information any time you fill out a play analysis form.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at www.k12.ttu.edu.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. demonstrate a knowledge of the director's role as unifier and visionary;
2. interpret a play from the director's point of view;
3. use the vocabulary of the theatre;
4. express your creative self with rehearsal and performance;
5. perform the roles of actor and director in making decisions for a production;
6. demonstrate stage movement, characterization, and vocal techniques;
7. apply technical knowledge of sets, props, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, and publicity to a play;
8. design and render several technical items in the theatre;
9. read and understand a play based on dramatic structure; and
10. create a short play using the storytelling principles of a playwright.

TH addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](#) website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

The required textbook for this course is:

- Taylor, Robert D., and Robert D. Strickland. (2005). *Glencoe Theatre Art in Action*. New York: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill. ISBN 0-07-861625-5.

I think this is a marvelous book because it has so many fabulous pictures. I hope you'll enjoy the strong visual layout and presentation of the book as much as I do. Because we artists are such visual learners, I feel the text reflects our strengths. I will tell you that we do not proceed through the book as it is organized. I have yet to find a textbook that follows my "flight path" through the beginning theatre course. We'll snatch pages of information from several areas as we proceed.

Materials

Additional materials needed for this course include:

- a video camera and one video recording of your performance of a scene;
- a computer and software for compressing your video recording;
- drawing paper for sketching;
- poster board or a large sheet of paper for a theatre poster;
- an electronic portfolio to hold your collection of creative work, which will count as part of the final;
- access to play scripts;
- word processing software for writing a play in correct manuscript format;

- copies of two plays: *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder and *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson; and
- a friend or helper.

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** in the Syllabus section of your course)

Course Organization

This course consists of five lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Each lesson features sections that follow the process of the theatre experience.

- The **Box Office** details the reading and writing assignments, the objectives, and how to proceed. Go here to find general information about each lesson. It also includes some hints about working ahead and planning.

- **Backstage** is the vocabulary section. Terminology and word exercises will be found here. This section is the backbone of our world. Communication and the ability to understand and work with others is the foundation of theatre. Please be aware that this course does not contain all the important terms you should know. You will be responsible for the terms mentioned in your textbook readings as well.

- The **Rehearsal Studio** section will lead you though the lesson topics. This is where you do the work of the theatre. Activities include short exercises (physical and mental), writing, reading, and performance.

- The **Stage** will be the lesson assignment. It's your turn to perform.

- The **House** is the area of the physical theater where the audience sits. The audience is the part of us that observes and responds to the art. We must learn to study our performance and strive to better our skills. You will be making a Theatre Portfolio where you express your creativity in various ways. These exercises are a chance for you to show me your personality. This portfolio will hold great adventures for you, I hope. Whether using glue, scissors, and paint or going to the mall, you will be able to use your creative spirit to capture these exercises. You will turn in your portfolio when you take your final exam, and it will count as part of the final. What better way for me to evaluate your creativity than a folder overflowing with your ideas?

- The **Critic's Corner** is my little place in your experience. You will be able to contact me through the Blackboard messaging system if you have a question about a lesson and I'll be able to respond to you with encouraging comments about your work. This course is about dialogue!

- You will encounter small sections called **When I Played the PALACE**. These are little stories of mine that illustrate a point. Old theatre people refer to their past glories by recalling times when they worked at a great theater, like the Palace in New York City. Often it is something that just pops into my thoughts as I am writing, but I want to mention them before I forget them! Humor me and read them.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 1	The Director's Work	Three weeks
Lesson 2	Acting: Characterization	Three weeks
Lesson 3	Technical Theatre: Sets, Lights, Props, Sound	Three weeks
Lesson 4	Technical Theatre: Costumes, Makeup, Publicity	Three weeks
Lesson 5	Playwriting	Four weeks
Final Exam		

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
1	1-3	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Assignment 1.1 Assignment 1.2 Assignment 1.3 Assignment 1.4 Assignment 1.5
2	4-6	Assignment 2.1 Assignment 2.2 Assignment 2.3 Assignment 2.4 Assignment 2.5 Assignment 2.6 Assignment 2.7 Assignment 2.8 Assignment 2.9
3	7-9	Assignment 3.1 Assignment 3.2

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Assignment 3.3 Assignment 3.4 Assignment 3.5 Assignment 3.6 Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
4	10-12	Assignment 4.1 – Play Analysis Assignment 4.2 *Summative Assignment – Costume Design *Summative Assignment – Makeup and Hair Designs *Summative Assignment – Poster Publicity
5	13-16	*Summative Assignment: Final Project Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		*Summative Portfolio Assignment Submission **Final Exam**

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

The final exam consists of two parts: a proctored, multiple-choice examination and your compiled Theatre Portfolio. You should not take the final until all your lessons have been graded and returned. They can help form your study guide for the written test. You should also know that the Theatre Portfolio is a major portion of the exam, so it must be submitted prior to the time of the final. Consider the final exam as your Opening Night!

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- Summative Assessments **(20% of Course Grade)**
  - Summative Assignment – Costume Design (50 points)
  - Summative Assignment – Makeup and Hair Designs (20 points)
  - Summative Assignment – Poster Publicity (50 points)
  - Summative Assignment: Final Project (100 points)
  - Summative Portfolio Assignment Submission (50 points)
- Summative Final Exam **(30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

"Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes "netiquette" (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for Online Discussion Netiquette. Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are

welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by mail or email.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit TTU K-12 Support.

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.