



**Theatre Appreciation**  
ARTS110  
Southwestern College Professional Studies

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

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I. **Course Catalog Description**

The purpose of Theatre Appreciation is to increase learners' understanding, appreciation, and critical perceptions of the theatre. Readings and discussions will focus on the elements of theatrical practice; artists and innovators of theatre throughout history; and on the theatre's development as an art form and a social phenomenon; participation in class forum discussions and sharing of critiques and short reports will offer avenues to explore learners' individual theatrical interests; and optional attendance at theatrical events will offer firsthand experience in theatre arts.

II. **Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials**

Wilson, E. (2011). *The theatre experience*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

III. **Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Read with critical comprehension
- Write clearly and coherently
  
- Use evidence from other texts to improve and support your arguments
- Think creatively, logically, and reflectively
- Practice ethical behavior
- Demonstrate self-direction and self-motivation
- Develop a basic knowledge of theatre terminology related to performance, artistic and technical production and careers in the field
- Describe what theatre is and what makes it different from other arts
- Discuss theatre as a seeing place.
- Recognize and describe non-traditional theatre spaces.
- Explain the collaborative effort of the makers of a play.
- Recognize the perspectives and forms of drama
- Identify and select tools for seeing and hearing the script in the mind's eye.
- Develop criteria for judging a performance's effectiveness

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. **Course Policies**

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	12	240	24
Short Analytical Papers	5	500	50
Final Project	1	260	26
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>100</b>

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Wilson</i> pp. 2-12, 22-43, and 67-82</li> <li>Read Susan Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i></li> <li>Review background on <i>Our Town</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 1 Introduction Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 1 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 1 Analytical Paper</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Wilson</i> pp. 150-197</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 2 Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 2 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 2 Analytical Paper</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Wilson</i> pp. 88-96, 101, 103-140</li> <li>Watch Thornton Wilder <i>Our Town</i> videos</li> <li>Review <i>War Horse</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 3 Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 3 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 3 Analytical Paper</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Wilson</i> pp. 224-264</li> <li>Watch Crafting Worlds: Theatrical Design</li> <li>Watch WICKED Costumes: Design/Build</li> <li>Watch 4000 MILES - Interview with the Props Coordinator</li> <li>Watch Making War Horse - The Puppet Factory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 4 Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 4 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 4 Analytical Paper</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Wilson</i> pp. 264-284 and pp. 343-363</li> <li>Watch The Making of "Eurydice" at Dartmouth</li> <li>Watch The Ride of the Valkyries from Wagner's Ring Cycle at the Met</li> <li>Watch Video: 'Das Rheingold' at the Met - nytimes.com/video</li> <li>Watch Das Rheingold Selected Scenes by San Francisco Opera</li> <li>Watch Die Walküre at L.A. Opera - Ride of the Valkyries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 5 Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 5 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 5 Analytical Paper</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch The Merchant of Venice Preview 9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 6 Discussion 1</li> <li>Unit 6 Discussion 2</li> <li>Unit 6 Final Project</li> </ul>

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.