



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Theatre Appreciation - Section Syllabus

THE 2000-P1121

Spring 25-26, A Session

Instructor: Dr. Rodney Whatley

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Last Date of Drop/Add: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: Monday, April 4, 2026

Final Exam Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 10:30AM-12:30PM

Class Meeting Time: MW 12:30PM-1:45PM

Class Location: Room 0850

Prerequisites: Placement at the college level or completion of the appropriate exit-level development course(s) with a grade of C or better

Course Description: In this course, students will explore dramatic structure, techniques, and various organizational elements. The course provides an introduction to theatre as a collaborative art form through the critical analysis of its historical context, production, theory, and connections to theatrical literature, including the Western canon.

Credits: 3 credit hours

Semesters Offered: FA, SP, SU

Course Designations: College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Humanities requirement

General Education Core Course Standard: Per Florida Statute 1007.25, "Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon"

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:

The Theatre Experience, 2025 Release; Goldfarb, A and Geigner, M; 978-1-266-29835; McGraw-Hill; 2025

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: (if applicable)

Additional materials may be assigned by the instructor to supplement the required material

Course Learning Outcomes:

Successful students will:

1. identify the basic principles of theatrical performance, design, technology, organization, and management.
2. assess the significance of the human condition as expressed through the performing arts.
3. explore and interpret works of art utilizing creative and critical thinking skills.
4. demonstrate college-level writing.
5. define, compare and contrast theater as both an expressive art form and a commercial industry.
6. demonstrate skills needed for critiquing a theatre performance
7. describe aspects of audience etiquette
8. describe the relationship between the architectural design of a theatre and the impact on audience perception
9. analyze the responsibilities of the actors, director, and playwright
10. discuss the impact of scenery, costuming, lighting, and sound
11. describe the difference between dramatic literature vs. other literary genres

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

I. Critical Thinking

Outcome: The student evaluates the validity of ideas, principles, or data according to logically consistent standards.

II. Communication

Outcome: The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.

V. Cultural Literacy

Outcome: The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture.

Student Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Calculation

The Objectives will be met through class discussions, play readings, in-class activities, assigned reading, video presentations, attendance at live performances, an essay paper, and exams.

1. Assigned chapter readings will be used to facilitate classroom discussion and group activities. Exam material will come from readings and class discussions/activities.
2. Students will complete 5 written exams. Final exam is a cumulative exam, covering questions most missed from previous exams plus new material from final chapters and material not tested on yet at end of semester.
3. Students will write one paper. The paper will be a critique of the semester's PSC production. Details on the writing of the paper will be discussed prior to the assignment. An outline specific to the paper will be provided by instructor when the assignment is given.
4. The class after the final performance of the play will include a special after-performance examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the performance. Participation in this exercise is crucial to the appreciation of theatre and therefore is worth 100 points towards the student's final grade for the semester.
5. Playwriting Day is a day spent in class working on a playwriting exercise. Copious fun will be had by all.
6. Throughout the semester there will be individual and group exercises in class. Participation in these will earn students' required Class Participation Exercises points. Any points scored above the minimum

are in-class extra credit opportunities to improve the students' semester grade. If a student is absent on Class Participation Exercise days, the student will have to arrange make-up work with the professor.

Grade Determination

Test 1:.....100 points	Paper:.....100
Test 2:.....100	After Production Discussion.....100
Test 3:.....100	Playwriting Day.....100
Test 4:.....100	Class Participation Exercises.....120
Final Exam:.....100	

Grading Scale

90-100	A
88-89	B+
80-87	B
78-79	C+
70-77	C
68-69	D+
60-67	D
0-59	F

Extra credit may also be earned by participation in a Pensacola State College Theatre production that meets a minimum level of cast or crew participation. Options include performing a role or production crew duty such as costumes, makeup, sound, light, set construction, running crew, or any backstage duties. Interested students can discuss this option with the professor.

Tardy: Habitual or excessive tardiness may be converted to absences. Tardiness is a disruption to the class and shows a lack of organization on your behalf, a lackadaisical attitude towards your work, and a lack of respect for your classmates.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual attendance is required. The fourth absence is considered excessive. The allowable absences are to provide for student illness as well as permit the student to take care of emergencies and/or personal business. Upon the fourth absence, the student is required to schedule an appointment with the instructor during office hours to determine if the student will continue the class. Excessive absences can result in negative semester grade damage.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

Academic Dishonesty Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: [Academic Integrity](#)

ADA Statement: Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act of 2008 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss academic accommodations. Appropriate academic accommodations are determined on an individual basis with careful consideration of the course learning outcomes and the documentation of the disability. For more information, students should visit the Student Resource Center for ADA Services on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603; call 850-484-1637; email ADAservices@pensacolastate.edu; or complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the MyPSC apps dashboard.

Emergency Statement: In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

Flexibility Statement: It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

Non-Discrimination Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex (as defined by applicable federal and state law), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or marital status in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Officer at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Security Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Student Email Accounts Statement: Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.