



Theatre Appreciation - Section Syllabus

THE 2000-D9199

Summer 25-26, Session C

Instructor: LaVonne French

Office: 0810

Phone: 850-484-1809

Email: lfrench@pensacolastate.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Department Head: Kenneth W. Phillips, Ph.D.

Department Head Office: 861

Department Head Phone: 850-484-1800

Department Head Email: kphillips@pensacolastate.edu

Last Date of Drop/Add: Friday, June 12, 2026

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Final Exam Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 11:59PM

Class Meeting Time: On-line

Class Location: On-line

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: 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. The student will explore dramatic structure, techniques, and various organizational elements. Designed to instill a curiosity and interest in all areas of the theatre. This is not an acting class.

Credits: 3 credit hours

Semester Offered: FA, SP, SU

Course Designations: 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

Course Specific Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. Students must log on to the course at least twice a week and remain active and involved in the course (i.e. turning in assignments, participating in discussion boards, taking exams), for the remainder of the semester.
2. Class participation is an important part of the learning process and is therefore expected of each student. Throughout the semester there will be several course-related discussion topics. Participation in these discussion topics is mandatory.
3. The writing requirement will be an opportunity to improve skills in the organization and written expression of ideas. The live performance review assignment paper has been carefully chosen to aid students in meeting the objectives of this requirement.
4. An introductory exam, plus four unit of study exams will be used to assess subject matter comprehension.
5. You should consider all due dates and times as the **last possible opportunity** to submit an assignment. Work ahead of the class schedule so you do not miss a deadline.
6. ALL assignments must be completed and submitted on time. **Late work will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero.**
7. **If you are required to be away from a computer on the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in early.**
8. The only exceptions to these rules occur when a student submits written verification of a death or life threatening emergency, or if you are representing the college in an official capacity on the date an assignment is due.
9. **Extra Credit is not available. Please keep up with the assignments and due dates.**
10. If unavoidable circumstances occur in your life that impede your performance in this course, please let me know!

Writing Assignment

The writing assignment for this course is a **critical review** of a live play emphasizing the areas of acting, directing, set design, costumes, etc. The approved live performance is posted in the Canvas Course site, as are the writing guidelines.

Technology Requirement

For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Technical Requirements

Students must have access to a reliable broadband Internet connection and a reliable computer (desktop or laptop). Students should know that many features of **Canvas** are supported on mobile devices such as cell phones, tablets, and iPads, however, such tools are not sufficient to complete course requirements.

Supported Browsers

Canvas supports the current and first previous major releases of the following browsers:

- **Chrome** 91 and 92
- **Firefox** 89 and 90 (Extended Releases are not supported*)
- **Edge** 91 and 92
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser** (supporting the latest system requirements)
- **Safari** 13 and 14 (Macintosh only)

Computer Specifications

For best performance, you should access Canvas with a computer that supports the most recent browser versions. It is recommended to use a computer five years old or newer with at least 1GB of RAM.

Operating System

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Internet Speed

Along with compatibility and web standards, Canvas has been carefully crafted to accommodate low bandwidth environments.

It is recommended to have a minimum Internet speed of 512kbps.

Screen Readers

- Macintosh: VoiceOver (latest version for Safari)
- PC: JAWS (latest version for Chrome and Firefox)
- PC: NVDA (latest version for Chrome and Firefox)

Canvas on Mobile Devices

The Canvas interface was optimized for desktop displays, so using small form factors such as phones may not be a pleasant experience in using Canvas. For the best user experience, please download the Canvas mobile applications. The Canvas mobile applications require Android 6.0 or later and iOS 13.0 or later.

Canvas offers limited support for native mobile browsers on tablet devices. For additional details, please reference the limited-support mobile browser guidelines.

Mobile Browsers

Visit the Apple store or the Play store to download mobile browsers. The following major browsers are compatible with mobile devices:

iOS

- Safari (default browser with limited Canvas support)
- Chrome

Android

- Chrome (default browser with limited Canvas support)*
- Internet
- Firefox

*Android default browser varies per mobile device.

For more info on technical requirements, please go to **Canvas Tech Requirements** link on eLearning homepage.

Rules for Online Conduct

Please observe these rules so we can learn together:

1. Course email is to be used for class-related materials and communications only. Many people resent receiving jokes, chain letters, advertisements, and so on.
2. Do not respond to a discussion posting with random or off the topic comments.
3. Always use polite language. In the online environment, jokes and sarcasm do not always come across as you intended them.
4. Give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Never criticize or poke fun at anyone.
5. Show enthusiasm! You add to the energy when you share your ideas, ask questions, and offer feedback.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes: (if applicable)

- 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:

1. Initial Profile Posting/Replies + 2 Unit Discussion Board Posting/Replies: 18% of Grade;
 2. Introduction Exam + 4 Unit Exams: 67% of Grade;
 3. Written review of approved live performance: 15% of Grade
- Total = 100% or 100 points

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

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.