

THR 492: Teaching & Directing High School Theatre

CID 4662

Spring 2008

TuTh 12:30-1:50 p.m.

TEC 341 (Education Center)

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Hours: MWF 11:00:12:00, 1:00-1:45; TuTh by appointment

Course Description

This is an undergraduate seminar for theatre majors who are interested in teaching and directing high school theatre in Texas; it is designed to provide practical information and experiences for aspiring teachers, regardless of whether they pursue traditional or alternative certification. This course is an upper-division theatre elective (not writing enhanced); it is not part of the SED curriculum nor is it required for the BFA teacher certification degree.

Course Objectives

To explore the process of theatre certification in Texas, both traditional and alternative, with emphasis on state requirements, timelines, certification tests.

To explore the employment process including locating jobs, interviewing, preparing cover letters and resumes.

To explore different teaching methods and strategies currently practiced in arts education such as differentiated instruction, multiple intelligences, learning styles, and objective-based learning and assessment.

To explore the role played by state and national standards of learning in the design and implementation of curriculum.

To explore examples of successful curricular and extracurricular programming at area high schools.

To explore how state and federal laws, particularly those regarding privacy and special needs, affect the teaching and directing of theatre in high school.

To explore the UIL one-act play contest as well as other extracurricular activities (such as oral interpretation and forensics) that may be asked or required of the teacher.

Graded Components

Project #1: Job Preparation Project **25%**
cover letter, resume, and unit plan/week-long lesson plan due Thursday, Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Project #2: Personal Project **25%**
750-1000 word account of an approved (experiential or intellectual) project; due Thursday, March 11, at 12:30 p.m.

Project #3: UIL One-Act Play Project **25%**
your own 40-minute cutting of a full-length play with directorial concept and scale model (with UIL pieces); due Thursday, April 15, at 12:30 p.m.

Project #4: Resource Book **25%**
a well organized collection of all your teacher materials; due no later than the final exam: Tuesday, May 11, at 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

By university policy for classes that meet two times each week (TuTh classes), you may not be penalized for up to 2 absences, nor for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; beyond that depends on the instructor's discretion.

After 2 absences, you will be penalized -5 points from your final course grade, unless there is written intervention (with specific dates, times, and reason) from our department chair or the Dean of Students.

For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded with 1/10th of a point (a "tasty treat") to be added to your final course grade.

Late Work

Any project submitted late will be penalized one letter grade (-10 points) for each week overdue.

Final Exam

There is no final exam; however, your final project is due on the day of the final (Tuesday, May 11, at 11:00 a.m.).

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted, if they are in spill-proof containers. Laptops are permitted only on Fridays, when we work in the computer lab. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight.

Academic Dishonesty

Any incident of academic dishonesty, most notably submitting someone else's work with your name on it, will result in a grade of zero for the project as well as a report to the department chair. Any subsequent incident will result in automatic course failure and a report to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Dean of Students.

Final Course Grade

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and then talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation will be made until you register with the Counseling Center.