

COURSE SYLLABUS
THAR 2 – Introduction to Theatre Arts. Section 6134
Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am – Noon
Class Meets Live Online via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR: Reed Martin

Fall 2020

Office Hours: Tues, Thurs 2:20 – 2:50pm, Via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/255822152>

Contact: Canvas Inbox

or Email: rmartin@santarosa.edu

FINAL: Tuesday, December 15 10am-12:45pm

LINK TO CLASS MEETINGS:

Class will meet live on Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30am-Noon.

Here is the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/771782835>

REQUIRED TEXT:

The Theatre Experience by Edwin Wilson, 13th Edition.

The textbook can be purchased through the bookstore and online. It is also On Reserve through the SRJC Library. Details on book rentals are available in the SRJC bookstore. If you have questions, feel free to email the bookstore manager, Will Crawford, at wcrawford@santarosa.edu

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

This class requires a working camera and microphone. Camera and microphone can be on a phone, computer, or separate webcam.

About Reed: I am a working professional actor, playwright and director. I am best known for my work with the Reduced Shakespeare Company (www.reducedshakespeare.com). I have a BA in Drama and Political Science from Cal Berkeley and an MFA in Acting from UC San Diego. I am a member of Actor's Equity, Theatre Bay Area, Theatre Communications Group, the Dramatists Guild, and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Prior to joining the Reduced Shakespeare Company, I attended Ringling Brothers Clown College and spent two years touring with the circus as a clown and assistant ringmaster. I have performed in 47 states and eleven foreign countries, including New Jersey.

ASSISTANCE WITH CANVAS

If you have not used Canvas before and need assistance, here is a link for Student Help for Canvas: <https://de.santarosa.edu/student-help-for-canvas>

STUDENT ONLINE RESOURCES

Santa Rosa Junior College has many online resources available to students including – Financial Aid, Tutoring, EOPS, Student Health Services, Library Services, and Free Or Affordable Technology. Click here for more information about these services and many others: <https://onlinestudentservices.santarosa.edu/online-student-services>

Class Description and Objectives

An introduction to theatre as both an art form and social forum, emphasizing the interrelated processes of playwriting, acting, directing, design, technical theatre, theatre criticism, theatre management, and theatre architecture. Students will study theatre from a variety of perspectives through lectures, attending plays, reading scripts, and hands-on experiences, and quizzes on the assigned readings of the textbook. Required attendance at three to four assigned theatre productions (discounted admission, students provide own transportation).

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the theatre as a complex and diverse art form, as well as its ever-changing role in modern society.
2. Approach, analyze, and discuss theatre as informed audience members, readers, and/or practitioners.
3. Participate in one or more areas of the theatre at an introductory level, applying correct terminology and working constructively with others.

Objectives:

In order to fulfill the outcomes above, during the course the student will:

1. Analyze the different responsibilities and contributions of the actor, playwright, director, designer, technician, management, producer, critic and audience, while recognizing the collaborative nature of the theatre.
2. Attend and critique a theatrical production, both holistically and through an analysis of the contributions of the various artistic elements.
3. Identify and theoretically solve the artistic challenges of a script, applying basic script analysis techniques for structural, thematic, and interpretive elements.
4. Correctly apply basic theatre terminology while demonstrating an introductory understanding of the positions, processes, and career opportunities in the theatre.
5. Discern the interdisciplinary contributions of other art forms and fields of study to the creation of theatre.
6. Recognize the major genres, styles, and movements of the modern theatre.
7. Communicate using various theatre design "languages" such as mood, sound, light, texture, color, rhythm, etc.
8. Outline and implement a basic research strategy, identifying questions, accessing key theatre resources, and problem-solving when necessary.
9. Collaborate with others in the development of theoretical and/or practical theatre projects.

Course Requirements

All students are required to have access to a computer, a printer, and the internet. If you do not have these resources readily available to you, there are several computer labs on campus. Please inquire at student services or the library.

Assignments

As a 3-hour lecture course, students will complete 6 hours of homework per week, which may include:

1. Reading:
 - A. Read approx. 10-20 pages per week from text. In class quizzes on the readings.
 - B. Read, analyze and discuss plays.
2. Watch Plays
Watch and prepare to discuss the two SRJC Theatre Arts productions.
3. Hands-On Experiences
 - A. Playwriting – Write a short scene (approx. 2-3 pages)
 - B. Acting/Directing – Each student will be teamed with fellow students to stage and rehearse.
 - C. Reviewing – Write a review of one of the productions watched, following review criteria provided in class.
 - D. Production Hours – Learn about the production process by watching videos and writing about the following:
 - a. Costume Design
 - b. Set Design
 - c. Sound Design

Hour must be completed by December 8, 2020
4. Director/Designer Project
Teamed with a fellow student (one serving as director and one as designer) each student will research, conceptualize, and create a production presentation and in-class display for a play of their choosing. Projects will be presented in class. Written documentation should be approximately three pages and must include a summary of research and script analysis, as well as a bibliography.

Grading

Attendance, Participation, Production Hours	25%
Quizzes	15%
Playwriting	15%
Acting/Directing	10%
Designer/Director Project	15%
Play Review	10%
Final	10%

A = 91-100, B = 81-90, C = 71-80, D = 61-70, F = 60 and below.

It shall be the policy of Sonoma County Junior College District to maintain an attendance policy and procedure consistent with State and local requirements.

Attendance Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Sonoma County Junior College District to maintain an attendance policy and procedures consistent with State and local requirements.

1.0 Attendance

- 1.1 Students are expected to attend all sessions of the course in which they are enrolled.
- 1.2 Any student with excessive absences may be dropped from the class.

2.0 Excessive Absence Defined

2.1 A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time.

2.2 Instructors shall state in each course syllabus what constitutes excessive absence for that course. For this course, more than five absences constitute excessive absences.

3.0 Excused vs. Unexcused absences

3.1 Unless state or federal law requires that the absence be deemed excused, no instructor shall be required to make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

3.2 If individual Instructors wish to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences the instructor shall state in each course syllabus all criteria for any excused absences in addition to those required by state or federal law.

4.0 Nonattendance

4.1 Students who fail to attend the first two class meetings of a full semester course may be dropped by the instructor.

Dropping A Class

If you have been in class for one class period and you need to drop, it is your responsibility to drop yourself from the course. Instructors are required to drop you from class if you do not attend the first two class meetings. It is illegal for you to be in class without being registered for the course.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

We will conduct ourselves in a manner which reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the **Student Conduct Policy** and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and may be referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

Students will need to have their camera and microphone on at the beginning of class and for lectures and discussions.

Students are expected to be dressed in an appropriate manner for school. Pajamas are not acceptable attire.

Students need to be seated at a chair for class. It is not appropriate to participate in class from bed.

RESPECT:

The best way to learn is through active participation; therefore, we respect others when talking, by being on-time, listening actively, and being polite even when we disagree with another's viewpoint. Please turn off all electronic devices. If you use a laptop for note taking, please sit in the front row with the sound off. No food in class please.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended – for one or two class meetings by the instructor – and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please see **Policy 3.11 for Academic Integrity**.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

<https://drd.santarosa.edu/>

If you need disability-related accommodations for this class, such as access to notes, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. Please contact DRD if you have not received authorization for accommodations. DRD is located in the Bertolini Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN:

- Register your Cell Phone with REGROUP and Nixle. <https://police.santarosa.edu/emergency-alerts-signup>

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Our class will meet on the front lawn by Mendocino Avenue, across Burbank Circle to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

In case of emergency, dial 527-1000! Do not dial 911 from on campus.

No student may be driven to the hospital by a faculty member. We are required by law to call an ambulance. Please notify the instructor if you have any medical condition that puts you at risk. There are first aid kits in the THAR office, the costume studio, makeup lab, and scene shop. There are fire extinguishers either inside each room in the hallway just outside the room.

TITLE 9: Title IX website [Links to an external site.](#)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits sex (gender-based) discrimination and harassment in educational programs and activities at institutions that receive federal financial funding, including for employment, academic, educational, extracurricular and athletic activities. This initiative is in compliance with Title IX and the Campus SaVE Act, and addresses critical issues including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Given the importance of this training, the District is required by federal and state law to offer all incoming and continuing students at all campuses education and awareness programs on sexual misconduct prevention.

Title 9: • Protects all people regardless of their gender or gender identity from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, which are forms of discrimination, and • Requires institutions to take necessary steps to prevent sexual misconduct on their campuses, and to respond promptly and effectively when sexual misconduct is reported.

STUDENT EQUITY: <https://studentequity.santarosa.edu/>

Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) aspires to be an inclusive, diverse, and sustainable learning community. Its mission is to passionately cultivate learning through the development of its diverse community.

What is Student Equity?

Title V California Education Code state the goal of Student Equity is “...to close achievement gaps in access and success in underrepresented student groups, as identified in local student equity plans.”

In the state of California and at SRJC, we have a diverse student population from a variety of backgrounds. The data shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are not achieving their academic goals at the same rate as the average population. At SRJC, the Office of Student Equity is committed to supporting campus wide efforts focused on reducing these achievement gaps.

FALL SEMESTER 2020 – IMPORTANT DATES

August 17	Classes Begin
August 23	Last day to register/add without instructor's signature or add code
August 30	Last day to drop semester length class and be eligible for a refund
September 6	Last day to register/add with the instructor's signature or add code
September 6	Last day to drop a class without “W” symbol
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASSES
September 8	Professional Development Flex Day – NO CLASSES or Activities
September 8	First Census Day
September 27	Last day to opt for P/NP
October 19	Last day to Register to Vote
Oct 19 – Nov 15	Midterm progress indicators posted in student portal
November 3	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday – NO CLASSES
November 15	Last day to drop class with “W” symbol
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASSES
December 15	Final Exam - THAR 2 - Tuesday - 10:00am - 12:45pm
January 1	Final Grades Due

SRJC Theatrical Productions

You are required to watch performances of both online SRJC theatrical productions this term. As a registered student in a Theatre Arts class, you are entitled to one free ticket per show. You are required to turn in your ticket stub for each show and to write a 500 word analysis of one of plays discussing each of the following aspects of the show: Set, Costumes, Acting, Lights, Sound, and Directing.



**AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

Live on Zoom Webinar

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Laura Downing-Lee

October 16, 17, 23, 24, 2020 at 7:30 PM

All aboard! With a burst of steam, the luxurious Orient Express departs Istanbul for Paris filled with an eccentric ensemble of international travelers ready to be pampered. Yet, by morning, the train is trapped in a snowdrift, a passenger is found

brutally stabbed to death, and the brilliant detective Hercule Poirot must employ all his “little grey cells” to solve the crime. Adapted by one of today’s foremost comedic playwrights, this sparkling retelling of Christie’s world-famous mystery is sure to delight. Staged as a 1934 radio play and broadcast live online, audiences are in for a suspenseful, thrilling ride!

“Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

**For tickets call (707) 527-4307
Or purchase at our **Online Box Office****



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A Musical, Filmed & Live on Zoom Webinar

Composed and Music Direction by Janis Dunson Wilson
Adapted for the Stage and Directed by John Shillington

Choreographed by Alyce Finwall
Vocal Direction by Tina Lloyd Meals
November 27, 28, December 4, 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Inspired by the beloved 1946 Frank Capra film, this home-grown musical brings the heartwarming holiday tale to life in a unique online theatrical production. Despite years of hard work and self-sacrifice, George Bailey is faced with financial ruin. That fateful night, as he stands on a bridge contemplating suicide, he wishes he had never been born. When Clarence (guardian angel in training) overhears George's bitter cry, he grants the wish, and opens his eyes to all that would have been lost...both large and small...in a life without him. Featuring an original score by the award-winning local artist Janis Dunson Wilson, this charming show is a ray of hope in our tumultuous times.

For tickets call (707) 527-4307
Or purchase at our [Online Box Office](#)

Review Guidelines – LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR GRADING

1. Reviews should be 500 words or about 2 pages in length (1 inch margins, 12 point font, for example), double-spaced and **typed**. You are expected to write proficiently – using complete sentences, correct word spelling and usage, etc. PLEASE USE SPELL CHECK AND CAPITALIZE PROPER NOUNS!
2. Please include your name, the title of the play, and the date you attended. Attach your ticket stub to the critique.
3. Play titles should be in *italics*. When naming actors, use the actor's name or the character's name depending on which is appropriate. It is incorrect to say that actor Mel Gibson murdered his uncle in *Hamlet* or that the character Ophelia gave a great performance in the second act of *Hamlet*.
4. Assume the reader already knows the plot. Only use events of the play as they are necessary to make a point. **Do not retell the story.**
5. Support your opinions through the points you choose to discuss. AVOID stating appreciation or disdain in general terms. "Mel Gibson gave a good performance as Hamlet" is not an adequate statement. In what way did he give a good performance? Why? How do you know? In which scenes did Mel Gibson give a *good* performance? Be specific and clear! While you may assume the reader knows the plot, you should not assume that the reader has seen this performance. Here is a clear example: "The costume designer selected appropriate colors to support the personality of each character. In the first scene, Hamlet wore a somber colored doublet of black and grey to illustrate his state of mourning for his father's death."

6. MOST IMPORTANT: Do **not** use personal pronouns in your paper. Instead of saying “I thought the costumes were well designed,” simply write, “The costumes were well designed,” and then go on to support your statement. I know the review is an expression of what you think because you are writing it.

7. Your paper should include commentary on most (if not all) of the following elements of production:

SET: Environment, structures, mood believability, color style, practicality for the performers, etc.

COSTUMES: Use of color, fabric, mood, time period, believability, character appropriateness, etc.

LIGHTS: Color, mood, effects, timing of changes, effectiveness lighting the actors and sets, etc.

ACTING: Projection, tone, dialect (if any), variety, posture, character, believability, movement, honesty, passion, listening and responding, truth, relationships to others on stage, etc.

DIRECTING: Casting, blocking, composition, unity of elements, choices related to style and period, unity of message, pacing, artistic appeal, concept, etc.

SOUND: How was recorded and live sound used in the performance? How did it help (or hinder) the story telling? Was the sound intended to help the audience understand the emotions that the characters were feeling? Was it used to establish time and place?

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.