



**Course** DRAM 1310. HN1: Understanding Theater, CV Honors  
**Professor** Jessica C. Murphy  
**Term** Fall 2016  
**Meetings** MW 1-2:15 in ATC 4.906

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### Professor's Contact Information

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**Office Hours** M 11:45am-12:45pm and by appointment

### General Core Area 050 Creative Arts

**Description:** Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

**Objectives:**

- Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication (COM)**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Teamwork (TW)**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

### General Course Information

<b>Course Description</b>	In this course, we will explore artistic, philosophical, social, historical, and psychological dimensions of the theatrical experience through reading, writing, discussion, performance, and viewing.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will learn to interpret theatrical performances and texts as demonstrated in written analysis papers and in-class performances. <b>(CT)</b></li><li>2. Students will communicate their ideas effectively through written and oral assignments. <b>(COM)</b></li><li>3. Students will demonstrate an ability to work with others toward a shared goal through the group assignment. <b>(TW)</b></li><li>4. Students will analyze the cultural context of at least one dramatic work in one of the written assignments. <b>(SR)</b></li></ol>

<b>Required Texts &amp; Materials</b>	<p>-We will use the <i>Drama Online Library</i>, available through the McDermott Library, for the majority of this course's readings. Other passages and texts may be provided by handout or electronically through e-learning.</p> <p>-A UTD email address that you check frequently.</p>
<b>Important Note about Theater Events</b>	<p>-We will be attending <i>Rent</i> at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas on September 23rd. The Honors College recommends the DART: <a href="http://www.dart.org/schedules/schedules.asp">http://www.dart.org/schedules/schedules.asp</a> You may take the UTD 883 bus to DART George Bush Turnpike station, or carpool to the Arapaho Center station. Get a DART pass free here: <a href="https://www.utdallas.edu/services/transit/dart/">https://www.utdallas.edu/services/transit/dart/</a> (Don't delay because they can take up to a week to arrive.)</p> <p>-Please attend one of the performances of <i>The Tempest</i> by Shakespeare Dallas. It is showing September 21-October 1 in Samuell Grand Amphitheatre and October 6-16 at Addison Circle Park. See <a href="http://www.shakespearedallas.org/plays/shakespeare-in-the-park/fall-season-play/">http://www.shakespearedallas.org/plays/shakespeare-in-the-park/fall-season-play/</a> for more information.</p>

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignment (Due by the beginning of class unless otherwise noted)
8/22	Introduction to course and expectations	
8/24	Library Instruction (meet in library lobby)	Look at <i>Drama Online Library</i> before coming to class on this day. Bring questions for library instruction. Short Writing 1 Due: 1 typed, double-spaced page answering, "What is theater?"
8/29	Aristophanes's <i>Frogs</i>	Read <i>Frogs</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/frogs-iid-116469">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/frogs-iid-116469</a>
8/31	<i>Frogs</i>	Read "Aristophanes" pp. 196- 203 in <i>Guide to Greek Theatre and Drama</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/context-and-criticism/guide-to-greek-theatre-and-drama-iid-14442/ba-9781408169056-0001468-.V4UngIYMWTS.link">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/context-and-criticism/guide-to-greek-theatre-and-drama-iid-14442/ba-9781408169056-0001468 -.V4UngIYMWTS.link</a>
9/5	No Class--Labor Day	
9/7	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Read <i>Twelfth Night</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/twelfth-night-iid-133547">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/twelfth-night-iid-133547</a>
9/12	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	
9/14	The Language of Shakespeare	Performance Assignment 1
9/19	Shakespeare on Stage	Watch Globe on Screen <i>Twelfth Night</i> : <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/twelfth-night-iid-154877">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/twelfth-night-iid-154877</a>
9/21-10/1/16	Shakespeare in the Park <i>The Tempest</i> (9/21-10/1 at Samuell Grand or 10/6-16 at Addison Circle)	Attend one of the performances of <i>The Tempest</i>

<b>9/21</b>	Discussion of Musical Theater, Role of the audience, cultural approaches to experiencing theater Visit from a DFW theater critic	Read: Handout about analyzing theatrical performances in writing
<b>9/23</b>	<i>Rent</i> at Winspear Opera House 8pm (more info and tickets will be provided)	
<b>9/26</b>	Improv Workshop in UTD Theater	Preparation instructions will be shared 9/21 or via email
<b>9/28</b>	Acting	Read: Handout about acting Short Writing 2 Due: Analysis of <i>Rent</i>
<b>10/3</b>	Listening to plays Formation of groups for group assignments	Listen to <i>The Graduate</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-graduate-iid-142845">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-graduate-iid-142845</a>
<b>10/5</b>	Continue discussion of <i>The Graduate</i>	Listen to <i>The Graduate</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-graduate-iid-142845">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-graduate-iid-142845</a>
<b>10/6-16/16</b>	Shakespeare in the Park <i>The Tempest</i> (9/21-10/1 at Samuell Grand or 10/6-16 at Addison Circle)	Attend one of the performances of <i>The Tempest</i>
<b>10/10</b>	Discuss <i>The Seagull</i>	Read <i>The Seagull</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-seagull-iid-113557-.V5sEJhsWhQE.link">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-seagull-iid-113557-.V5sEJhsWhQE.link</a> Read: Handout about playwriting
<b>10/12</b>	Continued discussion of <i>The Seagull</i>	Listen to <i>The Seagull</i> <a href="http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-seagull-iid-142861">http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/the-seagull-iid-142861</a>
<b>10/17</b>	Group 1 Reading/Discussion	Reading Assignment: TBA by Group 1 no later than 10/10 Short Writing 3 Due: Analysis of <i>The Tempest</i>
<b>10/19</b>	continued	
<b>10/24</b>	Group 2 Reading/Discussion	Reading Assignment: TBA by Group 2 no later than 10/17
<b>10/26</b>	continued	
<b>10/31</b>	Group 3 Reading/Discussion	Reading Assignment: TBA by Group 3 no later than 10/24 Short Writing 4 Due: Topic TBA by instructor
<b>11/2</b>	continued	
<b>11/7</b>	Group 4 Reading/Discussion	Reading Assignment: TBA by Group 4 no later than 10/31
<b>11/9</b>	continued	
<b>11/10-11/13 or 11/16-11/20</b>	<i>Avenue Q</i> at UTD Theatre	Attend one of the performances of <i>Avenue Q</i> .
<b>11/14</b>	Group assignment workshop	
<b>11/16</b>		Performance Assignment 2
<b>11/21</b>	No class-Fall Break	
<b>11/23</b>	No class-Fall Break	
<b>11/28</b>	Groups 1-2 assignment presentations	Short Writing 5 Due: Analysis of <i>Avenue Q</i>
<b>11/30</b>	Groups 3-4 assignment presentations	
<b>12/5</b>	No class on this day	
<b>12/7</b>	Course wrap-up and discussion	

## Course Policies

<b>Grading (credit) Criteria</b>	<b>5 Short Writings 25%</b> <b>2 Performances 10%</b> <b>Participation 25%</b> <b>Group Assignment 40%</b> I will provide detailed information about assignment expectations and grading criteria in class at least a week in advance of any due date.
<b>Make-up Exams</b>	<b>There will be no exams in this class.</b>
<b>Late Work</b>	<b>No late work will be accepted.</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>	Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period. Attendance is included in your participation grade for the course. However, if you miss more than 2 classes, you will lose points from your final grade for each additional missed class. In cases of proven emergencies, the instructor may reconsider this policy at her discretion. However, participation points cannot be made up.
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	It is expected that we will respect one another and one another's ideas. When we are in class, we are present: <b>no cell phones or other forms of electronic communication.</b> Please keep your cell phone dark, silent, and out of sight.
<b>Comet Creed</b>	<i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i>  "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i>  Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***