



# INTRO TO THEATRE (THE 142)

**Instructor:** Stacey Tweedlie Willis

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Class Meetings:**

MWF 10:45 – 11:45 AM

**Required Texts:** *Theatre Brief 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Written by Robert Cohen & Donovan Sherman

---

**Course Catalog Description:** This course provides a background, framework and vocabulary for the appreciation of six major areas of production (director, actor, designer/technician, playwright, script, and audience) and the various historical, textual, and performative elements that inform theatrical practice. Students will read a variety of plays, attend productions by the Theatre Arts Program, and participate in a course module involving production creation.

**Communication:** Email or text is the best way to contact me, I will usually respond within 24 hours. I am available for office hours by appointment. **You may also text me, before 8 pm.**

**Late Work:** Late work *will* be accepted, within *one* week of the assignment due date. After one week, the assignment will be a 0.

## **Student Learning University Outcomes & Course Objectives:**

**USO 1: Biblically Rooted** – Demonstrate spiritual literacy, including Biblical Christian faith and practice, Baptist perspectives, and the Christian’s role in fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Objective 1:** Students will encounter various types of drama and engage in discussions that explore the Christian worldview in secular productions.

**USO 2: Globally Minded** - Respect diverse religious, cultural, philosophical, and aesthetic experiences and perspectives.

**Objective 2:** Students will encounter various types of drama that all have diverse backgrounds.

**Objective 2.1:** Students will attend both CBU productions designed to open their mind to different cultures, languages, perspectives and even musical styles.

**USO 3: Academically Prepared** - Use critical thinking skills to demonstrate literacy: listening, speaking, writing, reading, viewing, and visual presentation.

**Objective 3.1:** Students will complete multiple critical thinking assignments (individually, in group settings, submitting online and presenting in class). Students will develop a well-versed vocabulary in theatrical terms and be able to articulate them via multiple theatrical critiques on professional productions, as well as numerous class presentations.

**Objective 3.2:** Participation is a large part of the course grade because student involvement is the catalyst to success in the course. In class assignments encourage listening and speaking literacy.

**Objective 3.3:** Students will discuss and develop an appreciation for theatre as a whole, as well as comprehend what it takes to put up a production from start to finish.

**USO 4: Academically Prepared**- Demonstrate competency in math, science, & technological skills.

**Objective 4:** Students will be exposed to and work with the latest theatrical technologies. They will learn the basics and course assignments will ensure hands on application.

**USO 5: Equipped to Serve** - Transfer academic studies to a profession and the workplace.

**Objective 5:** Students will explore multiple careers in theater, perhaps sparking interest for some or at the very least, appreciation.

**USO 6: Equipped to Serve** - Implement a personal and social ethic that results in informed participation in multiple levels of community.

**Objective 6:** Students will explore and discover different ways that theater gives back and how important volunteers are to the theatrical community.



# INTRO TO THEATRE (THE 142)

## Assignment Descriptions:

**Attendance/Participation/Reading (200 points total):** Attendance, along with your participation in class will contribute to your participation points each class meeting. We will have detailed discussions in class and your participation is imperative to the success and progression of our classroom. Reading is required and there will be quizzes addressing topics and facts from the reading.

**Theatrical Experience Essay (20 pts.):** Half page assignment touching on your preconceived notions and/or experience with the theatre.

**Come From Away Project (30 pts.):** Assignment focusing on the events surrounding 9/11.

**Actor Profile & Presentation (25 pts.):** A one-page handout detailing the life and contributions of someone important and/or influential to you that is connected to the theatre somehow. You will present your handout to the class.

**Chapter Presentation (35 Points):** Groups of Students will choose one chapter to present to the class via an in-class assignment/activity. Presentation must be roughly 10 minutes long.

**Play Reviews or Monologues (40 pts. each):** You will write two critiques, one chosen by me, one chosen by you. *You have the option to swap one critique for a monologue from that play instead. It MUST be memorized and performed in class.*

**CBU Theatre Production Attendance/Review (40 pts. each):** Students are required to attend both CBU productions. You will turn in your ticket, along with a review/critique of each production.

**Theatrical Assignments (40 pts. each):** 3 assignments that align with the text in the book, costumes, set design, social media. These assignments will touch on various aspects of theatre in order to familiarize you with each different speciality.

**Theatre Game (30 pts):** You will find and choose a theatre game to present and play in class. You must turn in a document via BB that details the instructions for the game.

**Musical Theatre Sound Design Assignment (35 pts):** Using Qlab, you will build a sound design. More details will be discussed in class. This is your teacher's favorite genre!

**The Theatre Project (150 pts.):** Semester long group project. More info on BB and in class.

**Quizzes/Final (50 pts: 3 quizzes/10 pts. each.1 Final/20 pts.):** There will be three content quizzes. We will have a class designated to review and prep for each quiz. Every quiz will include some items from the previous quiz. The final will review all key terms and ideas.

**DNA Play (100 pts.):** Your final presentation. A 5-minute, non-verbal, theatrical representation of your life, or a major event from your life. What makes you, you? Details in class.

**Extra Credit Opportunities (5 pts.):** Attend ANY LIVE performance and receive 5 pts. for bringing in or emailing a copy of either a ticket stub or program from the performance.



# INTRO TO THEATRE (THE 142)

**Choose Your Own Adventure Assignments (45 pts):** Below are 3 assignments designed for various learning types. Choose one assignment that seems the most interesting to you.

1. **Create Your Own In-Class Assignment** – Design an in-class assignment relevant to a portion of the course. You will then teach and implement your assignment during a class period.
2. **Research Paper** – Your research paper can be on anything pertaining to this class. The choice is yours, but your topic must be approved by me. This is NOT presented in class.
3. **Monologue or Musical Theatre Performance** – Choose any monologue or song (from a musical or play) to present to the class. It must be memorized and well-rehearsed.

<b>Grading Breakdown</b>	
(Subject to change/adjust at professor's discretion)	
<b>All homework assignments MUST be turned in via Blackboard, unless otherwise discussed in class. Handwritten or emailed assignments will result in points deducted.</b>	
<b>Attendance/Participation/In Class Assignments: 20%</b>	<b>200 Points Total</b>
<b>Homework: 50%</b>	<b>500 Points Total</b>
Theatrical Experience Essay	20
Come From Away Research Project	30
Actor Profile & Presentation	25
Set Design	40
Costume Design	40
Social Media Design	40
Theatre Game	30
Chapter Presentation	35
CBU Theatre Production Attendance/Review 1	40
CBU Theatre Production Attendance/Review 2	40
Choose Your Own Adventure Assignment	45
Play Review #1: <i>A Doll's House</i>	40
Play Review #2: Your Choice	40
Musical Theatre Week Sound Design	35
<b>Quizzes: 5% (10 Pts. Each)</b>	<b>50 Points Total</b>
Quiz 1: Chapters 1 - 4	10
Quiz 2: Chapters 5 – 8	10
Quiz 3: Chapters 9 – 11 (Online)	10
Final: Overview of all (Online)	20
<b>The Theatre Project: 15%</b>	<b>150 Points Total</b>
The Theatre Project: Check In's (5/10 pts. each)	50
The Theatre Project	100
<b>DNA Play 10%.</b>	<b>100 Points Total</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</b>	<b>1000</b>



# INTRO TO THEATRE (THE 142)

## TENTATIVE CLASS ITINERARY FALL 2022

**Bold = when assignment is due. Purple = Homework. Green = In Class Assignments.**

### September 2022

---

#### Week One

W Sep. 7 Introduction, Class Expectations, Syllabus Review.  
Homework: Get your book!

F Sep. 9 CBU Theatre Tour.  
Homework: Theatrical Essay. Get Your Book  
Read Introduction - Chapter One: What is Theatre? (On Blackboard)

#### Week Two

M Sep. 12 **Theatrical Essay Due.** Chapter 1 Discussion. *Come From Away*  
Homework: Come From Away Assignment.

W Sep. 14 *Come From Away*

F Sep. 16 ***Come From Away* Presentations** (No longer than 3 min.)  
Assign Chapter Presentation & Theatre Project Groups.  
Homework: Read Chapter 2: What is A Play?

#### Week Three

M Sep. 19 Chapter 2 Discussion.  
Read Oedipus Rex/Hamlet in Class.

W Sep. 21 Read Oedipus Rex/Hamlet in Class.  
Homework: Finish reading Oedipus Rex/Hamlet

F Sep. 23 **In Class Assignment: Oedipus/Hamlet Etudes** Group Theatre Project.  
Homework: Actor Profile (Due Sep. 26). Read Chapter 3: The Actor

#### Week Four

M Sep. 26 **Actor Profile Presentations** (No longer than 3 min.)

W Sep. 28 **In Class Assignment: Open Scenes** Group Theatre Project Work.  
*Writing a Review* Arnold Pg. 483 (Available on BB). Critique example on BB

F Sep. 30 **Check In #1 Due. Theatre Games.**  
Homework: Read Chapter 4: The Playwright

October 2022

---

## Week Five

M Oct. 3 **Chapter Presentations 1 & 2.**

W Oct. 5 **In Class Assignment: Playwriting Exercise**

F Oct. 7 **Chapter Presentations 3 & 4.**  
Review for Quiz 1: Chapters 1 – 4.

## Week Six

M Oct. 10 **Quiz 1: Chapters 1 – 4.** Group Theatre Project Work.  
**Homework: Read Chapter 5: Designer & Techs**

W Oct. 12 Chapter 5 Discussion.  
**In Class Assignment: QLab Demonstration**

F Oct. 14 **Theatre Games.**  
**In Class Assignment: QLab “Lab”**  
**Homework: Read Chapter 6: The Director**

## Week Seven

M Oct. 17 Chapter 6 Discussion.  
**In Class Assignment: Open Scenes with Directors**  
Read: Our Town in class  
**Homework: Read Act Two**

W Oct. 19 Read: Our Town in class  
**Homework: Set Design Assignment**

F Oct. 21 **Check In #2 Due. In Class Assignment: Our Town Etudes**  
**Homework: Read Chapter 7: Theatre Traditions. Set Design.**

## Week Eight

M Oct. 24 **Set Design Assignment & Presentations Due.**  
**Homework: Read *A Doll’s House* Act One.**

W Oct. 26 Read: *A Doll’s House* in Class. **In Class Assignment: Doll’s Etudes**  
**Homework: Finish *A Doll’s House* Act Two.**

F Oct. 28 **Theatre Games.** Watch *A Doll’s House* in Class.  
**Homework: Read Chapter 8: The Modern Theatre**

November 2022

---

## Week Nine

- M Oct. 31 **Chapter Presentations 5 & 6.**  
Theatre Project Group Work  
**Homework: Finish Reading/Watching *A Doll's House* on DT+ by 11/4.**
- W Nov. 2 Costume Design Assignment Details. Critique example/details.  
Theatre Project Group Work
- F Nov. 4 **Chapter Presentations 7 & 8.** Review for Quiz #2 (Chapters 5 - 8)  
**Check In #2 Due. Theatre Games**

## Week Ten

- M Nov. 7 **Critique or Performance #1 Due: *A Doll's House***  
Musical Theatre Week. **Quiz #2.**
- W Nov. 9 Musical Theatre Week
- F Nov. 11 Musical Theatre Week. **Theatre Games**  
**Homework: Musical Theatre Week Sound Design Assignment.**

## Week Eleven

- M Nov. 14 **Costume Design Assignment Presentations**
- W Nov. 16 Theatre Project Group Work.  
**Choose Your Own Adventure Assignments Due**
- F Nov. 18 **Check In #3 Due.**  
**Any Choose Your Own Presentations will take place today.**  
**Homework: Read Chapter 10 & 11. Take Quiz #3 Online over break.**  
**Finish Sound Design Assignment.**

**Thanksgiving Break: November 21 – 25, 2022**

---

## Week Twelve

- M Nov. 28 **Musical Theatre Week Sound Design Due (Not Presenting)**  
Read *Camp Comedy* in Class.
- W Nov. 30 Read *Camp Comedy* in Class. Group Theatre Project Work.  
**Homework: Camp Comedy Poster/Social Media.**
- F Dec. 2 **Check In #4/#5 Due.**  
Camp Comedy Poster/Social Media Due December 5<sup>th</sup>.



# INTRO TO THEATRE (THE 142)

## Week Thirteen

M Dec. 5    **Camp Comedy Poster/Social Media Due (Not Presenting)  
The Theatre Project Presentations**

W Dec. 7    **The Theatre Project Presentations. Final Quiz (Online).**

### **Intro To Theatre Final**

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

12:00 – 2:00 PM

DNA Play Presentations

### **California Baptist University Wide Syllabus Content:**

If you need assistance with writing assignments, the writing center is free and available to you.  
(<https://calbaptist.edu/writing-center/>)

**Recording of class sessions** without the prior express written permission of the instructor is prohibited. Any permission granted shall include the requirements that a recording may only be used for content study purposes only and sharing a recording with anyone outside of the course and/or posting on social media are strictly prohibited. This course policy is in alignment with Student Handbook and the Standard of Student Conduct. Refer to Student Handbook policies 15.6, 15.7, and 15.8 for more information.

#### **Academic Honesty**

All violations of the Honor Code must be reported to the Student Services Office. A first incident of violation of the Honor Code is handled at the discretion of the professor, in consultation with the Director of Student Conduct. Judicial sanctions for an offense are handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the seriousness of the violation, prior violations, and other factors. Judicial sanctions may include, but are not limited to, loss of a letter grade, failure of the respective assignment/examination, or failure in the course in which the offense occurred, suspension, and/or expulsion from the University. A detailed discussion of academic dishonesty appears in the CBU Student Handbook.

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who have a documented disability and wish to arrange the appropriate accommodation must contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at [DSS@calbaptist.edu](mailto:DSS@calbaptist.edu).

#### **Title IX Policy**

California Baptist University is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. For more information on CBU's Title IX policy, procedures, and resources, please refer to the Title IX page via the CBU website at <https://calbaptist.edu/about/title-ix>