

CATALOG YEAR 2008-09**(Please use separate form for each add/change)**COLLEGE/SCHOOL : College of Arts & Sciences
Current Catalog Page(s) Affected

Course: Add: XXX Delete: _____
 (check all that apply) Change: Number _____ Title _____ SCH _____
 Description _____ Prerequisite _____

If new, provide Course Prefix, Number, Title, SCH Value, Description, prerequisite, and lecture/lab hours if applicable. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Request to add:**THAR 2354 Characterization**

Three semester hours.

A studio acting course in which the student explores and develops the techniques of creating a role. The student will explore the beginnings of creating a character from the ground up through analysis, rehearsal, and performance. The student will work on the creation of a comedic character as well as a dramatic character. This will culminate in a final performance showcase of a one man/one woman performance piece with the inclusion of a duet performance at the end of the semester (Note: outside rehearsal time may be needed throughout the semester).

Justification: The study of theater arts is divided into two parts: plot and characterization. In order to become a playwright, director, scene designer, costume designer, and actor the student of theater must understand the concept of creating a character. While the Play Analysis course teaches students how to deconstruct and analyze a play for its plot purposes, Characterization does the same for the characters of the play. A laboratory course that dissects every aspect of building a character, this course is important for any student of the theater, and will serve as step to either direction or acting. Furthermore, any student wishing to audition for Master of Fine Arts programs will not only find this course useful, but also required of many graduate theater programs.

Program: Add: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Minor: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed minor. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Faculty: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed faculty entry. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

College Introductory Pages: Add information: _____ Change information: _____
Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____

THAR 1310- Characterization

Instructor: Gilberto Martinez, Jr.

Office Location: PH 312-B

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Office Hours: MWF 8:30-10:30 am

Course Description:

A studio acting course in which the student explores and develops the techniques of creating a role. The student will explore the beginnings of creating a character from the ground up through analysis, rehearsal, and performance. The student will work on the creation of a comedic character as well as a dramatic character. This will culminate in a final performance showcase of a one man/one woman performance piece with the inclusion of a duet performance at the end of the semester (Note: outside rehearsal time may be needed throughout the semester).

Program Outcome: Students will be able to understand the foundation of building a character for theatrical performance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will become aware of the scope and variety of theater in the arts and humanities.
2. The student will be able to understand theater as expressions of the individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. The student will be able to articulate an informed personal reaction to theater in humanities.
4. The student will develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern humanities and the theater arts.
5. The student will appreciate the process of developing a character for theatrical performance and for analytical study.

Textbook: *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* Author: Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, Pollack, Previto, and Zigler. ISBN: 978-0-394-74412-4

Materials: One notebook for writing production notes and journal entries

Student Responsibilities: Student responsibilities include punctual and regular attendance, practiced performances, setting individual goals and self-monitoring.

Attendance Policy: Students are responsible for their individual success in a given course. A significant portion of that success is a result of consistent attendance and overall classroom awareness. As a student, you should be dutifully aware of how much your education costs YOU, therefore be mindful of your personal investment and accountable to it. Excessive absences will be handled in jurisdiction with university standards and the

course instructor's discretion. Non-excused absences will not be tolerated. Therefore, **there will be no makeup opportunities for non-university accepted absences!** TAMIU policy indicates that students are expected to be in class unless students are involved in a university excused activity, can provide a doctor's excuse for an illness, or experiences an unavoidable emergency. In the case of planned absences, assignments may be turned in before their due date.

Grading Policy

Point values are as follows: **A** (90-100%) **B** (80-89%) **C** (70-79%) **D** (60-69%) **F** (0-59%)

Policies of the College of Arts and Sciences (Required on all COAS Syllabi)

Classroom Behavior

The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. **1)** When you borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **2)** When you also borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **3)** When you present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change

some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student will receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, has the right to give freshmen and sophomore students a “zero” for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of “F” (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option is not available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student will receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident must be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W.”

A new grade to denote academic dishonesty is now available, a “M” for “Academic Misconduct.” It has the same effect as an “F” but will indicate on the transcript that the failure was due to academic misconduct.

Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of

appeal comes within 3 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details.

UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU's UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and not other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see www.tamtu.edu). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text-messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;

2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an “Incomplete Grade Contract” and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the “I” to automatically be converted to a “F”; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college.

This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an “incomplete” may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

Final Examination

Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Course outline – maybe change to accommodate student and/or instructor needs

Day	Topic	Lessons
1	Introduction to course, goals, and expectations	Intros and exercises
2	A First Look at Auditioning	Monologue building
3	Auditions	Auditioning for show
4	Auditions	Auditioning for show
5	READ THROUGH	Notes Discussion
6	READ THROUGH	Notes Discussion
7	BLOCK SCENE ONE	Notes/Discussion
8	BLOCK SCENE ONE	Notes/Discussion
9	BLOCK SCENE TWO	Notes/Discussion
10	BLOCK SCENE TWO	Notes/Discussion
11	BLOCK SCENE THREE	Notes/Discussion
12	BLOCK SCENE THREE	Notes/Discussion
13	BLOCK SCENE FOUR	Notes/Discussion
14	BLOCK SCENE FOUR	Notes/Discussion
15	BLOCK SCENE FIVE	Notes/Discussion
16	BLOCK SCENE FIVE	Notes/Discussion

17	BLOCK SCENE SIX	Notes/Discussion
18	BLOCK SCENE SIX	Notes/Discussion
19	RUN THROUGH- SCENES 1-3	Notes/Discussion
20	RUN THROUGH- SCENES 1-3	Notes/Discussion
21	RUN THROUGH- SCENES 4-6	Notes/Discussion
22	RUN THROUGH- SCENES 4-6	Notes/Discussion
23	RUN-THROUGH ENTIRE SHOW	Notes/Discussion
24	RUN-THROUGH ENTIRE SHOW	Notes/Discussion
25	RUN-THROUGH ENTIRE SHOW	Notes/Discussion
26	RUN-THROUGH ENTIRE SHOW	Notes/Discussion
27	DRESS REHEARSAL	Notes/Discussion
28	PERFORMANCE	Performance Notes
29	PERFORMANCE	Performance Notes
30		

*MWF classes will be split between two days per week.