

THTR 1560 - Introduction to Theatre

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 40115,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Charles Dugan

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Charles Dugan, DMA, SLP-A

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Doctorate of Vocal Pedagogy and Performance, University of Miami

Postbaccalaureate Studies in Voice and Speech Science, University of South Florida

Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Florida State University

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Ohio Northern University

Instructor Office Location: Bliss Hall 3031

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3635 (Dana School of Music)

Course Description

1560. Introduction to Theatre. The theory, history, cultural role, and physical characteristics of the theatre as an institution in human society. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	No required textbook		

- Note: There is no required textbook for this course – readings and lectures have been collected from a variety of resources (with respect to intellectual copyright).

Unit 1

- **Reading:** *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*, "Acting May Be Hazardous to Your Health" PDF
- **Reading:** *A Director Prepares*, "Memory," pp. 21-41 PDF
- **Reading:** "Start Here: How to Study Baroque Gesture" link: <https://andrewlawrenceking.com/2015/11/30/start-here-how-to-study-baroque-gesture-historical-action/>

Unit 2

- **Reading:** Lutterbie, John. *An Introduction to Theatre, Performance and the Cognitive Sciences* "Landscapes," pp. 13-43. (Chapter 1)
- **Reading:** States, Bert. O. *Great Reckonings in Little Rooms*, "The World on Stage," pp. 19-47. (Chapter 1)
- **Reading:** Gotschall, Johnathan. *The Storytelling Animal*, "The Mind is a Storyteller," pp. 87-116.
- **Reading:** Greenwald, Michael L., et al. *Anthology of Drama and Theater*, "Waiting for Godot: The Modern Masterpiece," pp. 1209-1210. (Spotlight Excerpt)

Unit 3

- **Reading:** Hischak, Thomas S. and Robinson, Mark A. *Theatre as Human Action*, "The Play Builders I: Theatre Architecture and Scenic Designers," pp. 147-165
- **Reading:** Wilson, Edwin and Goldfarb, Alvin. *Theatre: The Lively Art* "The Designers: Scenery and Costumes," pp. 157-187
- **Suggested Script:** Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. [Link here](#).



Unit 4

- **Reading:** Grant, Mark N. The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical. "Wagging the Musical: How Director-Choreographers Co-Opted a Writer's Medium." pp. 211-214
- **Reading:** Kantor, Micheal. *Broadway: The American Musical*. Directors and Producers. Excerpted pages.
- **Reading:** Taylor. *Theatre: Arts in Action*. "Careers & Theater." pp. 570-579
- **Reading:** Fischer, Jenna. *The Actor's Life*. "Headshots, Getting in the Union, and Building Your Resume." pp. 36-78.
- **Suggested Script:** Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. PDF

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Course Outline

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24		Unit 0 - Introduction	
8/31	• Reading: The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods, "Acting May Be Hazardous to Your Health" PDF • Reading: A Director Prepares, "Memory," pp. 21-41 PDF • Reading: "Start Here: How to Study Baroque Gesture" link: https://andrewlawrenceking.com/2015/11/30/start-here-how-to-study-baroque-gesture-historical-action/	Unit 1 - History of Theatre	Student Agreement Quiz and Introduction Video DUE before Midnight on Wednesday, September 2, 2026
9/7	• Reading: The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods, "Acting May Be Hazardous to Your Health" PDF • Reading: A Director Prepares, "Memory," pp. 21-41 PDF • Reading: "Start Here: How to Study Baroque Gesture" link: https://andrewlawrenceking.com/2015/11/30/start-here-how-to-study-baroque-gesture-historical-action/	Unit 1 - History of Theatre	
9/14	• Reading: The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods, "Acting May Be Hazardous to Your Health" PDF • Reading: A Director Prepares, "Memory," pp. 21-41 PDF • Reading: "Start Here: How to Study Baroque Gesture" link: https://andrewlawrenceking.com/2015/11/30/start-here-how-to-study-baroque-gesture-historical-action/	Unit 1 - History of Theatre	Unit 1 Quiz, Video Presentation, Reaction Post DUE before Midnight on Sunday, September 20, 2026
9/21	• Reading: Lutterbie, John. An Introduction to Theatre, Performance and the Cognitive Sciences "Landscapes," pp. 13-43. (Chapter 1) • Reading: States, Bert. O. Great Reckonings in Little Rooms, "The World on Stage," pp. 19-47. (Chapter 1) • Reading: Gotschall, Johnathan. The Storytelling Animal, "The Mind is a Storyteller," pp. 87-116. • Reading: Greenwald, Michael L., et al. Anthology of Drama and Theater, "Waiting for Godot: The Modern Masterpiece," pp. 1209-1210. (Spotlight Excerpt)	Unit 2 - Theatre of Ideas	



9/28	• Reading: Lutterbie, John. An Introduction to Theatre, Performance and the Cognitive Sciences "Landscapes," pp. 13-43. (Chapter 1) • Reading: States, Bert. O. Great Reckonings in Little Rooms, "The World on Stage," pp. 19-47. (Chapter 1) • Reading: Gotschall, Johnathan. The Storytelling Animal, "The Mind is a Storyteller," pp. 87-116. • Reading: Greenwald, Michael L., et al. Anthology of Drama and Theater, "Waiting for Godot: The Modern Masterpiece," pp. 1209-1210. (Spotlight Excerpt)	Unit 2 - Theatre of Ideas	
10/5	• Reading: Lutterbie, John. An Introduction to Theatre, Performance and the Cognitive Sciences "Landscapes," pp. 13-43. (Chapter 1) • Reading: States, Bert. O. Great Reckonings in Little Rooms, "The World on Stage," pp. 19-47. (Chapter 1) • Reading: Gotschall, Johnathan. The Storytelling Animal, "The Mind is a Storyteller," pp. 87-116. • Reading: Greenwald, Michael L., et al. Anthology of Drama and Theater, "Waiting for Godot: The Modern Masterpiece," pp. 1209-1210. (Spotlight Excerpt)	Unit 2 - Theatre of Ideas	Unit 2 Quiz, Video Presentation, Reaction Post DUE before Midnight, Sunday, October 11, 2026
10/12	• Reading: Hischak, Thomas S. and Robinson, Mark A. Theatre as Human Action, "The Play Builders I: Theatre Architecture and Scenic Designers, pp. 147-165 • Reading: Wilson, Edwin and Goldfarb, Alvin. Theare: The Lively Art "The Designers: Scenery and Costumes," pp.157-187 • Suggested Script: Hansberry, Lorraine. A Raisin in the Sun. Link here.	Unit 3 - Materials of the Theater	Play Review Essay Due (Ravenscroft) Oct 18
10/19	• Reading: Hischak, Thomas S. and Robinson, Mark A. Theatre as Human Action, "The Play Builders I: Theatre Architecture and Scenic Designers, pp. 147-165 • Reading: Wilson, Edwin and Goldfarb, Alvin. Theare: The Lively Art "The Designers: Scenery and Costumes," pp.157-187 • Suggested Script: Hansberry, Lorraine. A Raisin in the Sun. Link here.	Unit 3 - Materials of the Theatre	
10/26	• Reading: Hischak, Thomas S. and Robinson, Mark A. Theatre as Human Action, "The Play Builders I: Theatre Architecture and Scenic Designers, pp. 147-165 • Reading: Wilson, Edwin and Goldfarb, Alvin. Theare: The Lively Art "The Designers: Scenery and Costumes," pp.157-187 • Suggested Script: Hansberry, Lorraine. A Raisin in the Sun. Link here.	Unit 3 - Materials of the Theatre	Unit 3 Quiz, Video Presentation, Reaction Post DUE before Midnight, Sunday, November 1, 2026



11/2	• Reading: Grant, Mark N. The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical. "Wagging the Musical: How Director-Choreographers Co-Opted a Writer's Medium." pp. 211-214 • - Reading: Kantor, Micheal. Broadway: The American Musical. Directors and Producers. Excerpted pages. • - Reading: Taylor. Theatre: Arts in Action. "Careers & Theater." pp. 570-579 • - Reading: Fischer, Jenna. The Actor's Life. "Headshots, Getting in the Union, and Building Your Resume." pp. 36-78. • - Suggested Script: Miller, Arthur. Death of a Salesman. PDF	Unit 4 - People of the Theatre	
11/9	• Reading: Grant, Mark N. The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical. "Wagging the Musical: How Director-Choreographers Co-Opted a Writer's Medium." pp. 211-214 • - Reading: Kantor, Micheal. Broadway: The American Musical. Directors and Producers. Excerpted pages. • - Reading: Taylor. Theatre: Arts in Action. "Careers & Theater." pp. 570-579 • - Reading: Fischer, Jenna. The Actor's Life. "Headshots, Getting in the Union, and Building Your Resume." pp. 36-78. • - Suggested Script: Miller, Arthur. Death of a Salesman. PDF	Unit 4 - People of the Theatre	Live Show Review Essay Due (Opera Scenes) Nov 15
11/16	• Reading: Grant, Mark N. The Rise and Fall of the Broadway Musical. "Wagging the Musical: How Director-Choreographers Co-Opted a Writer's Medium." pp. 211-214 • - Reading: Kantor, Micheal. Broadway: The American Musical. Directors and Producers. Excerpted pages. • - Reading: Taylor. Theatre: Arts in Action. "Careers & Theater." pp. 570-579 • - Reading: Fischer, Jenna. The Actor's Life. "Headshots, Getting in the Union, and Building Your Resume." pp. 36-78. • - Suggested Script: Miller, Arthur. Death of a Salesman. PDF	Unit 4 - People of the Theatre	Unit 4 Quiz, Video Presentation, Reaction Post DUE before Midnight, Sunday, November 22, 2026
11/23	Semester Break		
11/30		Instructor will Review Assignments, Participation, Essays and Grades	Live Show Review Essay Due (Clue) Dec 6 Check Grades and Assignment Submissions Live Show Review Essay Due (Extra Credit) Dec 6
12/7	No final examination.		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.