

# **THEA 4910.707 Special Problems Spring 2024**

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Office Hours: Mondays between 11:30a -1:30p, or by appointment.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THEA 4910: Special Problems is an upper division course that facilitates student study of a particular topic of interest to the student that either builds upon curriculum they have studied in previous courses or a topic of interest that falls outside of UNT Theatre curriculum.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**

Through dialogue and collaboration with the professor mentoring the student, the focus of study and requirements for successful completion of the Special Problems course are decided, a deadline and meeting calendar is created, and the process of the work is begun. The student is responsible for managing all deadlines for course content.

## **ATTENDANCE**

If the construct of a particular Special Problem course involves a structured class schedule, the following policy for attendance and punctuality applies.

- Students are allowed no more than a total of TWO (2) absences during the semester.
- Students are considered tardy if they arrive for class no more than 30 minutes late. Arriving more than 30 minutes late for class is considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend class for the duration of the period. Leaving class before then is considered an absence.
- An occurrence of tardiness for the class FOUR (4) times is the equivalent of ONE (1) absence.

- A total of THREE (3) absences means that the highest grade the student can earn in the class is an F.

## **GRADING**

### **Special circumstances when late work will be accepted:**

- If you are involved in any special school functions which may require you to miss a class please inform the professor ASAP.
- Please notify me at the beginning of the semester if you will be absent due to a religious holiday.

**Based on the focus of the Special Problems course point values will be assigned to assignments and projects. The final grade will be based on the total number of points possible and the final total of points earned. The final grade will be calculated on a 10% grading scale.**

<b>A</b>	<b>90%-100%</b>	<b>of total points</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80%-89%</b>	<b>“ “</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70%-79%</b>	<b>“ “</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60%-69%</b>	<b>“ “</b>

The descriptions listed below are extremely general and designed only to be a basic guide to help students understand the expectations of the instructor when assessing work in class. Hopefully, this bit of context will help the student set personal goals to work toward over the course of the semester.

### **GRADE OF A**

Participation is excellent. Work is committed, focused and sustained, with obvious, excellent growth. All assignments and deadlines satisfactorily completed on time. Student shows clear excellence in mastering the objectives of the assignments. Instructor's critiques generally focus on strong aspects of the work. Student is self-motivated, self-directed, and able to improve upon strengths. All work shows careful preparation and commitment.

### **GRADE OF B**

Participation is above average. The student exceeds the basic fulfillment of all requirements is met with growth. Student shows strong competence in fulfilling objectives of the assignment. Instructor's critiques generally focus primarily on strong areas of work, with several specific areas of improvement suggested for subsequent

work. There is evidence that the student works independently to evolve both strengths and areas of improvement. Work is strong, has been well prepared and consistently shows good potential for improvement.

### **GRADE OF C**

Minimal participation. A fair number of assignments have not been submitted for grading. Feedback and critique generally focus on weaker areas of work, with stronger aspects identified and reinforced. Lack of evidence of independent work on areas the instructor has identified as “needing improvement”. Overall work ethic needs improvement.

### **GRADE OF D**

Student has missed a significant number of exercises. When work is turned in, student has produced work that often does not satisfy the minimum requirements for project. Critiques focus on lack of preparation, lack of understanding of assignment, and unwillingness to give maximum effort. Work ethic reflects a poor attitude and a lack of organization, motivation, and discipline—all of which result in below average outcomes.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Please direct all class related correspondence via the “Inbox” on our class Canvas site.
- Students are welcome to reach me by calling my cell phone: 214-616-5570—text and voice mail messages----either is fine.

Please turn on the “Notifications” option in Canvas so you receive updates from me. I will use the “Announcements” option as a primary communication tool for class. The only way to ensure that you receive them is to “enable notifications” on your device(s).

I cannot stress how important communication is. If you are experiencing challenges, an emergency---anything that is keeping you from fulfilling your commitment to this class or any of your classes at UNT, please consider having a conversation with me. I do understand that things come up that are unavoidable and unexpected. There are many avenues of support at UNT. I am aware of them and can point you in a direction for support and guidance. I am always willing to work with students to help them achieve success whenever possible.

## **WITHDRAWAL**

Should you choose to drop this course, you must initiate the drop and acquire all of the proper signatures and paperwork. If that process is not completed, you will be subject to a WF or an F at the close of the semester.

## **STUDENT OBLIGATION TO ACADEMIC/PRODUCTION WORK**

Dance & Theater students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignments within the department, as well as outside employment and other obligations, sometimes impose conflicting pressures on DT students. One of the main responsibilities of each student is to identify carefully and monitor the commitments that comprise his/her departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind that production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

## **ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES**

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation: reference Public Law 92-112—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

## **STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

The Department of Dance and Theatre also offers face-to-face SPOT evaluations, if the student wishes. Ask your professor for details if you wish to pursue that option.

## **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).