



## THEA 1100 – Introduction to Theatre

### Course Syllabus – Fall 2020

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Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, (678) 466-5445, [disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu).

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#### Course Description:

#### Number and Title:

THEA 1100 (CRN  
81127) Introduction to  
Theatre

#### Credit Hours:

3.0 semester credit hours (3-0-0)

#### Catalog Description:

A survey of the dramatic arts from the perspective of performance as an integral part of world cultures, past and present. Critical thinking and communication skills are emphasized.

#### COVID-19 Health and Safety Syllabus Addendum

Clayton State University is committed to providing and promoting a healthy and safe learning environment. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to comply with all social distancing mitigation measures, practices, guidelines and policies. Please note the following rules and regulations that are in place during the fall semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Anyone who is feeling ill should refrain from coming to campus and should consult the symptoms related to COVID-19 to determine if a visit to a physician or clinic is necessary. Any faculty, staff or student who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, has been sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, or has been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19 (either through community-related exposure or international travel) should self-isolate or stay home and follow the reporting procedures below:
  - Faculty and staff should follow the requirements and reporting guidelines set forth in the [Workplace Health and Safety Return to Work Plan](#) and notify their supervisor.
  - Students should use the reporting form found on the Clayton State University [COVID-19 website](#).
- All faculty, students, staff, and visitors are **required** to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth in classrooms and academic buildings. Anyone not using a face covering will be asked to wear one or vacate the area. The enforcement of these policies, practices, and guidelines will necessitate the effort of all campus community members. Repeated refusal to comply with these policies, practices, and guidelines by students may result in disciplinary actions up to and including suspension, as described in the University's Academic Catalog and Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Additional personal protection equipment may be required for clinicals, practicums, applied performance and laboratory classes.

- All classroom seating and furniture in common areas on campus has been measured and marked to accurately represent 6-ft physical distancing. No furniture or signs or floor labels should be moved or removed.
- Assigned seating will be used in all classes on campus, and attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Seating charts will be accessible through the D2L course space and should be reviewed prior to the first day of class. The instructor area in each classroom has been marked to allow a minimum of 6-ft separation between the designated area and classroom seats. Students are to refrain from entering the instructor designated space.
- Signage indicating the maximum capacity for each classroom has been placed on the entry doors to each classroom and on the media podiums. Additional class participants above the designated number are not allowed.
- Disinfecting wipes or other approved cleaning solutions and disposable gloves will be provided in each classroom. Students should wipe their desk area before each class. Faculty should wipe the podium and any technology peripherals/touchpads which are permanently located in the classrooms upon entry into the room.
- Stairways in buildings have been designated as either up or down to minimize the number of persons on the stairs at one time. All persons are to adhere to the posted signs and directions, except in the case of fire or other emergency requiring evacuation.
- Elevators have been measured for physical distancing and the maximum capacity has been posted. If you must use the elevator, please comply with the floor markings to maintain physical distancing requirements.
- Any classrooms that are not in use for classes should be left vacant unless prior scheduling approval has been granted.
- **To aid in ventilation of classrooms and to maximize air exchange rates, faculty should leave their classroom doors closed during each class meeting and make sure they are closed them after their class concludes. Students are not to enter rooms until 10 minutes before class.**

### **Course Structure:**

The course is broken into weekly units with discussions, written assignments, and activities covering multiple weeks. Students will need to complete any online assignments by Monday Evening of each week. Each online section will be on D2L by no later than 11:59pm of the Wednesday BEFORE it would be due. Each weekly unit will contain instructions on how to engage with the material.

For each week you will:

- Read the chapter (if Assigned).
- Watch corresponding lecture and supplementary videos/links.
- Complete all online readings and activities.
- Participate in in-person meetings and exercises as assigned to your class group.

### **Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

None

### **Content:**

Plays on the Page and Plays on the Stage  
 Play Analysis  
 Playwriting  
 Design

Directing  
Performance  
Dramaturgy  
Outreach and Marketing  
Theatre for Social Change  
Advocating for the Arts  
Writing about Live Theatre

### **Computer Requirement:**

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to

<http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

### **Computer Skill Prerequisites:**

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using the Clayton State University email system using Outlook™ or Outlook Express™
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser.
- Able to use Microsoft Teams
- Able to use Desire2Learn Learning Management System

Only use your CSU email account or Teams chat to communicate academic information to your instructor.

### **In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers and Other Technology:**

Student notebook computers will be used in this course. Computers will be required to access course materials and to communicate with your instructor.

Using your computer for activities other than note taking (social media, games, studying for other classes, etc) will result in immediate dismissal from the classroom and reduction in participation points. I will not ask questions, I will simply ask you to leave. Repeated infractions will result in disciplinary action with Student Affairs for disrupting the classroom.

Your Clayton.edu email address is the primary means of communication for this course. Important information and changes to the syllabus will be communicated via email. You should check your email frequently and regularly. The easiest way to do this is by pushing your emails to your phone. If you do not know how to do this The HUB help you. You will not be exempt from expectations or penalties in this course because you “didn’t check your email.”

### **Desire2Learn and Teams (Online Classroom):**

This class will be taught using materials and activities in D2L along with live sessions and office hours using Microsoft Teams. There is an expectation that you will attend sessions in Teams on the designated day

and time found in your class schedule. Please consider finding a quiet space to attend these sessions and install the Microsoft Teams app on your laptop before the first day of class.

### **Directions for Installing Teams:**

1. Go to [swan.clayton.edu](http://swan.clayton.edu) and click on the Microsoft Teams link
2. Download the Microsoft Teams application to your computer by click on the small computer icon on the bottom left side of the screen. If you don't see the icon, you already have the program installed on your computer.
3. You will need to log in using your CSU username and password along with Multifactor Authentication.

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn and Microsoft Teams, the virtual classroom for the course. Posting of your work in D2L and/or Teams is a course requirement.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at [TheHub@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:TheHub@mail.clayton.edu) or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

### **Major Student Activities:**

Reading and studying from the course text book and supplemental texts  
Taking notes during class  
Answering and asking questions during class  
Watching and participating in demonstrations  
Writing a formal play analysis  
Completing In Class Engagements  
Taking quizzes on vocabulary vital to the discipline  
Attending live theatrical production  
Writing a formal response to viewing a theatrical production

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### **Program Learning Outcomes:**

#### **General education outcomes:**

The Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Area D) are located in the Graduation Requirements section of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

#### **Theatre outcomes:**

- Recognize and interpret subject matter and history of theatre: major works, issues, movements.
  - Assess and employ theatrical concepts in decision-making and critical aesthetic judgments.
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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course undergraduate students will be able to:

- Understand and articulate terms, concepts and principles that are foundational to the expressive art of theatre.
  - Engage creative-collaborative processes through analysis, evaluation, and inventive problem solving
  - Examine the relationship of dramatic literature/live performance to the global community as a part of the creation of the human experience
  - Understand and articulate theatre as a life-enhancing experience
  - Develop habits that foster a life-long appreciation and patronage of dramatic literature/live performance
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**Term:**

Fall Semester 2020

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**Instructor Information:****Instructor:**

Kirill Sheynerman M.F.A.  
e-mail: [ksheynerman@gmail.com](mailto:ksheynerman@gmail.com)

**Virtual Office hours:**

Wednesday 1-3pm and Thursday 11:am-12:30pm

Socially distant in person times by appointment

Office hours are by appointment only during tech week, see schedule for details

**Class Meetings:**

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**Classroom:**

James Baker University Center, Room U322

D2L and Microsoft Teams

**Class times:**

11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m., Tuesday

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**Textbook Information:****Text:**

*Experiencing Theatre* by Anne Fletcher and Scott R. Ireland

Other texts provided via D2L under fair use

Students are encouraged to use [PriceLoch.com](http://PriceLoch.com) to comparison shop for textbooks.

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**Evaluation:**

See the end of the syllabus for a detailed description of each graded assignment

Social Contract/Participation at Midterm	100
Social Contract/Participation at End of Semester	100
Nine Vocabulary Quizzes (drop two lowest) at 35 points each	315-70=245
Nine In Class Engagements at 25 points each	225
Performance Critique	130
Midterm	100
Final Exam	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

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**Grading:**

<b>A</b>	900 – 1000
<b>B</b>	800 – 890
<b>C</b>	700 – 790
<b>D</b>	600 – 690
<b>F</b>	below 600

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**Mid-term Progress Report:**

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by September 30th, reflects approximately 45% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of

the Registrar, by mid-term, which occurs on October 2nd. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

**The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday October 2, 2020.**

**Course Schedule (Subject to Change):**

**ALL ASSIGNED READINGS IN THE TEXTBOOK WILL BE LISTED IN THE D2L ONLINE MODULE**

	Date	Topic	Complete before next class.
1	Tue Aug. 11	Introduction /Syllabus What is Theatre?	D2L Online Module 1  Start thinking about review
2	Tue Aug 18	Aristotle's 6 Elements	D2L Online Module 2
3	Tue Aug 25	Analyzing a Play with Aristotle	D2L Online Module 3
4	Tue Sept 1	Realism vs Non-Realism	D2L Online Module 4
5	Tue Sep 8	Almost Maine <b>ASSIGN MIDTERM</b>	D2L Online Module 5
6	Tue Sep 15	Playwriting Monologue	
7	Tue Sep 22	Theatre Spaces <b>MIDTERM DUE</b>	D2L Online Module 6
8	Tue Sep 29	Scenery, Groundplans	D2L Online Module 7
	<b>Fri Oct 2</b>	<b>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW BEFORE MIDPOINT</b>	
9	Tue Oct 6	<b>Costumes Collage/Rendering ICE3</b>	D2L Online Module 8
10	Tue Oct 13	Light Calculating Light <b>ICE4</b>	D2L Online Module 9
11	Tue Oct 20	Performers and Performing Directors and Directing <b>ICE 8</b>	D2L Online Module 10
12	Tue Oct 27	Acting Techniques <b>ICE 6 / ICE7</b>	D2L Online Module 11
13	Tue Nov 3	Reviews and Critiques	D2L Online Module 12
14	Tue Nov 10	Outreach	D2L Online Module 13
	Week of Nov 17	Final Exam TBD	

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**Course Policies:**

## General Policy:

Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#). The Student Handbook is part of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

## University Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

## Course Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend each class period on time and prepared for the day's work. Class will begin promptly at the designated time. Students who are not present at the designated start time will be counted tardy.

You must be fully present (both physically and mentally) and engage in class discussions and activity. **Merely showing up does not constitute participation**, which is a part of your final grade. You must also have read the assignment in its entirety to fully participate. D2L indicates whether or not you've read the assignment and **periodic pop quizzes with reinforce this assessment**. Arriving late, leaving early, sleeping in class, and engaging in activities not relevant to class will negatively affect your participation grade.

## Missed Work:

**Work is due at the beginning of the class period on which it is due. Late work will not be accepted.** Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a zero.

Unless otherwise specified, there will be no makeup assignments.

Exceptions to Attendance and Missed Work policies are available **ONLY** under **extraordinary circumstances** (cases of emergency, death of close relative, university sponsored events, religious observance, professional activity, court appearances, or other circumstances approved by the instructor). Whenever possible, **notice must be given at least one week in advance**. In the event of an unforeseen emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. When you return, please provide documentation for the circumstance such as a note from the emergency room or an obituary in the case of a family death. **I will not request this documentation**. Failure to turn in documentation of extraordinary circumstances within two weeks of your return will forfeit this exception and you will be responsible for any penalties incurred. **Documentation of extraordinary excuses should be submitted in the folder under assignments. I will not accept hard copies or emails as documentation. You must scan/photograph your documentation and submit it on D2L within two weeks of your absence.**

## Academic Dishonesty:

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the section of the [Academic Catalog and](#)



[Student Handbook](#) titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions.

- Copying and pasting **ANY** writing or work that is not your own is plagiarism. If you didn't write it directly from your head without any consultation of any source, it is NOT YOUR WORK and using it without citation IS PLAGIARISM.
- The odds of you being able to accurately replicate a source without looking at it is slim to none. You have a better chance of winning the lottery TWICE than replicating 5 words in consecutive order. <https://sctcc.learn.minnstate.edu/shared/FacultyTutorials/MathematicsOfPlagiarism.pdf>
- Turning in a paper you've used for another class is plagiarism.
- Copying just one sentence that "sounds good" without proper citation is plagiarism.
- Using a definition from a source without citing it is plagiarism.
- Paraphrasing a source without citation is plagiarism.
- Copying the work of another student is plagiarism
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. **ALL** instances of plagiarism will be reported.

Increasing your word count with tiny white text is academic dishonesty  
I do not care if you knew what you were doing was plagiarism/academic dishonesty.

Inserting white letters in the spaces of your document to try to beat the plagiarism checker is academic dishonesty and I *will* catch you. Turnitin provides me the option of looking at a text-only report which easily exposes your dishonesty.

It is **YOUR** responsibility as a student to know what does and does not constitute plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you are unsure of what does or does not constitute plagiarism and academic dishonesty there are numerous websites and tutorials on the internet. You can also visit the writing studio. You can also ask your professor.

Students are advised not to share their work with other students, as this may implicate them as a conspirator in plagiarism.

Sanctions for plagiarism and academic dishonesty range from loss of a letter grade to full failure of the course depending on severity. **Don't do it.**

**IT IS BETTER TO ASK FOR AN EXTENSION OR TURN IN HALF FINISHED WORK THAN TO PLAGIARIZE!**

### **Plagiarism Detection Software:**

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

### **Disruption of the Learning Environment:**

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A

student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures sections of the Clayton State University [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

### **Writing Assistance:**

The goal of the Writers' Studio is to give rise to better writers, not just to better writing. People who love to write, people who struggle mightily with it, and people who fall anywhere else on the spectrum can find a place at The Writers' Studio—a place for students to come for writing guidance and feedback.

Each student may receive up to 90 minutes of assistance per day and 3 hours per week. Furthermore, both appointments and walk-ins are welcome. Here's The Writers' Studio's contact information:

Location: Arts & Sciences Building, Room G-224  
Phone: 678.466.4728  
Email: [ws224@clayton.edu](mailto:ws224@clayton.edu)  
Website: <http://clayton.edu/writers>

Visit The Writers' Studio at <http://clayton.edu/writers> or schedule your appointment online at <https://csu.campus.eab.com> (Note: first-time users need to complete a one-time registration prior to using the online appointment website).

### **Weapons on Campus:**

Clayton State University is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Information on laws and policies regulating weapons on campus are available at

<http://www.clayton.edu/public-safety/Safety-Security/Weapons>

### **Hardship Withdrawal:**

Students who experience an unexpected event or circumstance beyond their control that directly interferes with their ability to continue to make satisfactory progress in classes, such as serious illnesses or unexpected major life events, may petition the Dean of their major for a hardship withdrawal from all classes. In order to be considered for a hardship withdrawal, the student must have been passing all courses at the time that the emergency or other hardship arose and notify his or her instructors or other University officials about the hardship situation as soon as possible after it arose (per University and BOR policy, —passing is defined as a grade of —D or above). Hardship requests that are not filed in a timely manner are subject to denial even if the student was passing and the hardship was legitimate. Students who attend any classes through the end of a term and complete all course requirements (i.e. final project or exam) are not eligible for hardship withdrawal. If you have taken a final exam in any of your courses, you may not request a hardship withdrawal. For more information go to <http://www.clayton.edu/registrar/Withdrawal>

### **Other Policies**

## A NOTE ON EXPECTATIONS:

This is not an “easy A” course. You will be expected to learn and use terms, concepts and processes inherent to the creation of theatre with some capacity over the course of the term. This introductory course is no different than math, biology, business, or anthropology in that it asks much of you in a short time so as to give you a full introduction to the discipline and art of live theatre, its history and its intense demands on creative-collaborators. Standards of assessment are not lax either. The excuse, “I am not a theatre major” will not work at ANY time.

As noted in the Student Handbook (pg 487) <http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/1/catalog/2018-2019-academic-catalog-student-handbook.pdf>

Credit for study at Clayton State University and at all institutions in the University System of Georgia is measured quantitatively in semester hours. One semester credit hour presumes one hour (actually 50 minutes) in class per week plus about two hours (100 minutes) outside of class in study, review, project preparation, and related activities. **Most courses are three credit hours, meaning that the class will normally meet 150 minutes per week and that the student should normally plan to spend an additional 300 minutes studying, reviewing, and preparing.**

## NOTES ON GRADING:

It is *your* responsibility to keep all assignments until you have received your final grade. Should a mistake in the calculation of your grade occur, for any reason, you will want to be able to show your work. Be sure to keep digital copies of EVERYTHING you hand in until you have received your final grade in the course. You should save those digital copies in multiple locations (network, flash drives, e-mail attachments).

**Grades will not be discussed until 24 hours after you have received the assignment back in your hands. Grades will not be discussed via email or immediately before or after class. You must wait 24 hours, then schedule an appointment with your instructor in order to discuss grades.** You must schedule this discussion within two weeks of the assignment being handed back in class. These discussions are not grade negotiations, but strategy sessions on how to improve your work in the future. If there is an error in arithmetic, please bring that to the instructor’s attention ASAP. You do not need to wait 24 hours for an arithmetic error.

## ADULT CONTENT:

Theatre is a reflection of the human condition in all its sublime complexities, both beautiful and grotesque. Some plays and materials in this course may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to address your concerns.

## EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra Credit may come available from time to time. These are opportunities to enhance your learning as well as your grade. Extra Credit IS NOT a band-aid for poor work. **Do not ask** for extra credit opportunities.

## GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK:

All work handed in must follow MLA format (8<sup>th</sup> edition) which includes but is not limited to:

- Typed

- Times New Roman, 12 Point Font (Not 12.5)
  - 1" Margins on all four sides
  - Double spaced (without extra space between paragraphs or in the heading)
  - Left-aligned (not centered or justified)
  - Normal character spacing (not expanded or condensed)
  - **PROOFREAD**
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### **Description of Assignments:**

**Social Contract / Participation:** I expect you to attend class regularly and attentively. You should be prepared for class, having read all materials beforehand and fruitfully contribute to the class discussion/work. Your participation grade is not an attendance grade and depends on more than your physical presence. Two sign in sheets will be provided at the beginning of class. At the beginning of class the first sheet will be taken down. Students who've signed in on the first sheet will be counted on time. Students who arrive after class begins and sign in on the second sheet will be counted tardy. There is no "grace period" because in theatre when you're late you're fired. This mimics the conditions of the real world. Things happen, we live in Atlanta and traffic is a normal occurrence. It is your responsibility to plan your commute accordingly. If you miss a class period, you are responsible for contacting other students in the class to catch up on missed material. **Do not ask me to tell you what was covered in classes you've missed.** You will receive participation grades twice per semester 100 points at midterm and a total of 100 points at the end of the semester.

**Vocabulary Quizzes:** These quizzes are designed to help you master a new set of words necessary for discussing concepts for the day. Vocabulary words are boldfaced terms from *Experiencing Theatre*. You will take these quizzes at home, before the class period which they are due. The goal is that you are ALREADY familiar with these terms by the time we discuss them in class. This is college and learning new words is something you are expected to do on your own. We will not specifically cover the definitions of the words in class, but use them to understand the larger picture of the discipline.

**Midterm Exam:** You will have an online midterm exam that asks you to analyze Lady Gregory's *The Rising of the Moon* using Aristotle's Six Elements of Drama.

**Performance critique:** You will be asked to watch an online performance done by fellow CSU students. You will have to write a review of the production you watched using terms and ideas learned in class. Format TBD.

**In Class Engagements:** Periodically though the semester you will engage in graded assignments in class. These activities are designed to provide hands on experience of theatrical practice. These assignments will be evaluated for completion and significant engagement. You cannot complete these assignments unless you are in class that day.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be a cumulative written exam consisting of a variety of short answer questions. A review session and study guide will be provided at the end of the course.