

**WELCOME TO "ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE" FOR COMMUNICATING**  
**A Learning Community comprising:**

**INTRO. TO THEATER (SPCH-PERF 130) and INTRO. TO COMMUNICATION (SPCH-COMM 100)**

**Instructors:**  
**Susan**



**Jim Blair,**  
**Colon,** Introduction to



Introduction to  
Communication

Theater



When Shakespeare penned the soliloquy that begins, "All the world's a stage,/ And all the men and women merely players," he acknowledged a connection between communicating as an actor in a drama and communicating as a person in everyday life. Several years later, sociologist Erving Goffman, in his text, *The presentation of the self in everyday life*, discussed the link between identity, environment, and social interaction - that is, the link between the person, the "stage," and the "audience." Your instructors also acknowledge a connection between drama and communication and the power of one school of thought to influence and enlighten the other. We look forward to sharing these connections with you, while encouraging you to explore and identify your own connections.

**GENERAL COURSE GOALS:**

This course is designed to develop and improve your written and oral communication skills, critical thinking and critical analysis skills, and your ability to examine culture, relationships, language and power from literary and communication perspectives. You will develop an understanding of the basic theories, concepts, vocabulary, and processes related to the study of theater and interpersonal communication. You will learn to employ drama as a lens or catalyst in order to articulate concepts of inference, inquiry, and observation. You will also become aware of the importance of a variety of contexts and the use of verbal and nonverbal communication in various relationships.

As a class, we will also focus on pedagogical issues including the communication challenges of teaching, the integration of arts into the curriculum, and the incorporation of collaborative activities in the classroom. Lectures, discussions, class activities, written assignments, and school observations will be used to aid in the construction of knowledge and the development of skills related to communication and drama.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Class participation:** You are expected to actively participate in class on a regular basis. Class participation includes class discussion, small group activities, acting, improvisation, writing, formal presentations, and school visits. Everyone's full participation will enhance the classroom atmosphere and create a learning community from which we will all benefit.

**Attendance:** Because class participation is a critical component of your grade, excessive absences and tardiness will adversely affect your grade. You can attempt to maximize your points earned by being on time and participating fully every day. If extenuating circumstances occur, you need to discuss them with us. In general, the following policy will apply: after three absences your participation grade will drop 5% for each additional absence. Three times tardy = 1 absence. For your further information, the last date on which you may drop this course is March 19, 2004. Please note that if you decide to drop one class, you must drop the other; for example, if you decide to drop SPCH-COMM 100, you must also drop SPCH-PERF 130.

**Readings, homework, and due dates:** All assignments (e.g., readings, written work, presentations) must be completed on time! We encourage you to ask questions or make comments that you have about the readings or about anything else we are doing. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to find out about the assignment and complete it prior to the next class period (or due date) in order to receive full credit for the assignment. You can e-mail one of us for a copy or ask someone to get the assignment for you. Please discuss any overdue assignments with the appropriate instructor. In general, no make-up assignments, quizzes, exams, or projects will be allowed. If we choose to allow a make-up assignment or test, that decision will be based on individual circumstances. Late assignments will receive only partial credit.

**General behavior:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or submitting non-original work will result in, at a minimum, a failing grade for the assignment, and at our discretion, a failing grade for the course.

Creativity is encouraged and rewarded. This includes the creative application and observations of the readings, principles, and theories discussed. Take responsibility for your own learning, practice, and performance; make new friends; respect your classmates, your teacher, and yourself; and learn something new! You are in charge of your own learning!

Have fun! We pledge to make learning in this course a worthwhile and enjoyable experience, and we welcome your suggestions for achieving this goal. As we work together in this learning community, every attempt will be made to offer you the support you need to ensure your success.

*In addition to this general course information, we have provided more detailed information regarding objectives, assignments, and grading procedures. See syllabi for each course for details.*