

Theatre 357
Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 1:45
Fall 2010
Office Hrs: MW 11:00 – 12:00

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History of the Theatre I

Course Summary

This course is designed to survey the history of the Western Theatre from its recorded inception until about the mid 17th Century. We will cover the background, social trends, performance styles, theatre spaces, visual elements and influences from each major period as they pertained to the theatre of the time. In this way we will be able to trace the thread of similarity as it runs through each genre, as well as, note the differences. We will also explore samples of the dramatic literature from some periods.

While there are many approaches to the exploration of the history of the theatre, we will take what is known as a Positivist Approach. Our approach will suggest that there exists, somewhere within the theatre's history, a logical and traceable progression to the changes that occurred throughout the Theatre's history and that we can objectively note and discuss them. This premise is a kin to what is known as Cultural Darwinism; an evolution of sorts. While this may seem true in the our study of theatre history, I present to you that it is also *not* true and that we are accepting the Positivist premise merely as a means to make our study more accessible and perhaps more easily understandable. History is not necessarily linear and the history of the theatre, the history of a 'lie that is true,' is not either.

...the end is present in the beginning and the beginning is clear in the end.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to theatre history and to the practices of theatre historians. Students will investigate historical documents, discuss historical methods and problem-solving techniques, and examine the role of bias and theory in the creation of theatrical history.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance policy: **Attendance is mandatory.** Students are expected to attend all classes. To even have to state this seems to me to be ludicrous. The likelihood is that if you intend on missing classes, you will fail this course. **After 3 official unexcused absences your final grade (based upon the average of the whole of your work) will be lowered one full letter grade. For each subsequent absence your grade will be lowered another full letter grade. Students missing 6 classes will receive a failure for the course. Absences on the day of your presentations will count as double. Three tardies equals one absence.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from fellow students. As stated in the 2009 – 2011 University Bulletin, "Students are responsible for all class work missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. Immediately upon the student's return to class, a conference should be arranged with the instructor to determine what action on the student's part is necessary to compensate for the time lost and materials missed due to the absence."

Further clarification of the University's attendance policies, can be found on pages 399 - 400 of the University Bulletin.

Late assignments will be assigned a lower grade.

2. Assigned readings: As you will be called upon at any and all times to contribute to the course, the student is required to complete all the reading and assignments so as to be able discuss the subject matter at hand. In addition to the text, you will be reading a representative plays from some of the 6 major periods we study.
3. Research paper: There will be one final research paper on a specific topic of theatre history, play, period, or theatre artist. Papers are to be 10 double spaced, proof-read, type written pages, with proper citations [MLA] and must include a complete bibliography. Topics for the research paper must be chosen by no later than Thursday September 23, 2010, and must be approved. Since it is my firm belief that scholarly work, research, and theory can not exist in a vacuum and further, that all work in the theatre by its very nature must be shared, the 'research-in-progress' on the topics may be shared with the class in the form of a short oral presentation which will include an informal supportive response to your material and a question and answer period. A final draft of your research paper is due Tuesday November 9th. Further specifics will be discussed. A research paper handout will accompany the Syllabus
4. There will be two major exams: a mid-term exam and a final

Texts

Wilson, Goldfarb. Living Theatre: A History. (Fourth, Fifth, or Six) Edition. (McGraw Hill)
 (Please Note: Edition differences will change chapter order though content will remain the same. Students are responsible to keep in line with the syllabi's chapter intent.)

The following plays will be utilized during the semester. You may find them at Book Stores under these titles, or in an anthology, or collected works by the author.

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Anonymous, *The Second Shepherd's Play* (In Everyman & Other Morality Plays)

Grading

Course participation (preparedness, participation) - 5 % of the final grade

Quizzes on the plays- 15% of the final grade

Research paper and presentation- 20 % of the final grade

Midterm Exam- 30 % of the final grade

Final Exam- 30 % of the final grade

Attendance Policy- As it effect your final average

Grading scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-69	D
0 - 64	F

Cell Phones – Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. **All phones are to be turned off (not just silenced) during the class period.** Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam will

be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Students messaging during an exam will automatically receive an F for the exam and will be penalized to the fullest extent possible in keeping with the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

Special Needs – Students requesting special arrangements in order to accommodate specific testing needs are responsible to inform the faculty at least one week in advance of EACH test so that these arrangements may be made. In addition, each student requesting special accommodations must provide the appropriate paperwork, as required by the Learning Center in Lee Hall.

Moodle – This course will use the Moodle system to post class documents, as well as to disseminate any amendments to the course schedule or policies. As all material posted in this manner will become the responsibility of ALL who participate in this course, the ability to log onto Moodle and receive email at your University email account is a course requirement for all students. Any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking should be directed to the UCS Help Desk (helpdesk@louisiana.edu, 482-5515).

Academic Honesty – Students are expected to abide by all policies of conduct as specified within University policy. Any breach of this code (i.e. forgery, plagiarism, or acts of academic dishonesty) will be enforced to the fullest extent possible (including, but not limited to, automatic failure and/or expulsion). Clarification of the University's Academic Honesty Policy can be found on page 400 of the 2009 - 2011 University Bulletin.

Drop Procedure – (Note - students wishing to drop should consult the student handbook for more specific information regarding University drop policies.) If you are in Junior Division, you can only obtain drop cards from Lee Hall. If you are Upper Division, then you can only obtain drop cards from the Dean's office (The Dean for the College of the Arts is located in FL 202).

Please be aware that dropping a course may have adverse effects and that the following statement appears on the drop card you are required to sign: "I accept full responsibility for all consequences, including academic, financial aid and health insurance, of dropping this course." Therefore, although you are under no obligation to consult faculty prior to dropping a course, please consider discussing your plans with your professor prior to taking this action.

Emergency Egress Procedures – A map of this floor detailing both the Designated Rescue Area (area where emergency service personnel will first check for individuals in need of assistance) and evacuation route is posted near the entrance. Students who need additional assistance should identify themselves to the teaching faculty.

Course Timeline

August		
21	Intro, Syllabus, Approach	Read Living Theatre: Preface, Introduction, & Part One
23	Early Theatre, Ritual	Read L. T. Chapter I
28	Greek Theatre	
30	Greek Theatre	
September		
4	Greek Theatre	Read Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i>
6	Quiz, Discussion of <i>Antigone</i>	Read L. T. Chapter 2
11	Roman Theatre	
13	Roman Theatre	
18	Roman Theatre	
20	Library Research Day/Tour	Read L. T. Chapter 3
25	Medieval Theatre	
27	Medieval Theatre Mid-Term Review Sheet	
October		
2	No Class Fall Break	
4	Mid-term Exam	Read <i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i>
9	Medieval Theatre, Quiz, Discussion of <i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i>	Read L. T. Part Two & Chapter 5
11	Theatre of The Italian Renaissance	
16	Theatre of The Italian Renaissance	Read Commedia Scenarios
18	Theatre of The Italian Renaissance	Read L. T. Chapter 6
23	Theatre of The English Renaissance	
25	Theatre of The English Renaissance	
30	Theatre of The English Renaissance	

November			
1	Theatre of The English Renaissance Final Paper Topics Due		Read Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
6	Quiz, Discussion of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>		
8	Oral Reports	_____	_____
		_____	_____
		_____	_____
13	Oral Reports	_____	_____
		_____	_____
		_____	_____
15	Oral Reports	_____	Read L. T. Chapter 7
		_____	_____
		_____	_____
20	Theatre of The Spanish Golden Age		
22	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class		
27	Theatre of The Spanish Golden Age		
29	Theatre of The Spanish Golden Age Research Papers Due Final Review Sheet		
December 7	Final Exam 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm		

Remember the dates on this syllabus are subject to change.

Stay ahead in your readings.

An updated time line is likely to follow.