

**THEATRE 3360 // HISTORY OF THEATRE I**  
 Fall 2014 / 3 Credit Hours  
**Class Meeting Time: MWF 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm**

**David McTier, Ph.D., Instructor**  
**THEA 3360.01, CRN: 81079**  
**Classroom: PAC 240**  
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**Office: PAC 284-F**  
**Office Hours:**  
 Sign-up for a meeting slot on my door.

Vicky Lantz, Ph.D., Instructor  
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**Office: PAC 284-A**  
**Office Hours: MWR 2:00pm-4:00pm**  
 And by appointment

**Catalogue Description**

A survey of the origins of the theatre, with major concentration centered upon the development of the western theatre from the Greeks to the Neoclassic. Writing Enhanced. Credit 3.

**Course Description**

This course covers the history of theatre from the Greeks and ancient societies to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Europe and around the globe. Topics will include theatrical production, architecture, playwriting, acting, and design from the periods including: Greek, Roman, Medieval European, Italian Renaissance, Elizabethan/Jacobean, Restoration, Neoclassical, and early non-Western (Indian, African, Japanese). The course explore the origins of theatre in part so you can trace how theatrical traditions relate to cultural/historical movements in the ancient and early modern world.

**Course Goals**

**You will be able to:**

- **Assess why** theatre was created: understand and appreciate the historical and cultural context.
- **Identify how** theatre was produced: theatrical conventions, writing, financing, performance, design, technology, architecture, etc.

- **Recognize** developments of historical genres and some of their representative plays.
- **Apply** this knowledge to your own work as a theatre practitioner and discover and appreciate how other contemporary theatre artists and companies are applying their knowledge in producing the “classics.”
- **Know and be able to use** standard theatre vocabulary stemming from this period.
- **Share your ideas**, be they individual or collective, in oral presentations and writing (hard copy and online/blog).
- **Conduct** independent research to create a production history.

**Recommended Texts**

Oscar Brockett and Franklin Hildy, History of the Theatre, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition Note: This is a very expensive text; however, you may buy in new or used version or you may rent a hard copy or digital copy. You also may check-out a copy from the library.

You are encouraged but not required to buy a play anthology that you can use throughout your (college) career. We will provide the Bedford (5th Edition) for in-class use; you are welcome to buy or rent a copy of this for a pretty good deal.

**Grade Breakdown**

<u>Grade Breakdown</u>	<u>Points</u>
Participation	100
Class Blog	200
In-Class Presentations	200
Production History	200
Terms/Definitions Online Exams (3 @ 100pts)	300
<b>1000 TOTAL</b>	

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	
900-1000 pts	— A
800-899 pts	— B
700-799 pts	— C
600-699 pts	— D
599 and below	— F

**Participation (100 pts):** You will spend part of the course in discussion, as a whole class or in small groups. You are expected to actively engage in class discussions and you need to be present, not just physically, but also mentally. To ensure your success, come to class prepared to talk about the concepts of the course.

**Class Blog (200 pts):** Throughout the semester, you participate in blog about course material. You will post original thoughts about the historical periods, people, ideas, movements, performances, etc. You can write a response, post images, videos, etc. You are expected to read the blog actively and use the comment sections for interacting with each other. We will have a mid-semester check-in all together to talk through what we are seeing. Consider the blog your chance to explore interesting ideas you have!

**In-Class Presentations (200 pts):** Mid-semester, you will present for the class, either individually or as a group, a creative or concept project. In addition to the oral presentation, you will submit a paper. We will give you a menu of options for the presentations. **50% of the presentation grade will be on how well you follow a check-list we provide you; 50% will be based on the care and detail you put into the project.**

**Production History (200 pts):** During Finals Week, you will turn in a production history on an assigned play. You will gather images and reviews from productions of considerable importance, in terms of artistic merit (premiere, revival, outstanding actor/director, innovative design) or historical merit (political or social meaning, or a production that changed our way of looking at the play). The production history will include:

- A collection of images, with captions, from 10 professional productions.
- Reviews with pertinent information from 10 professional productions.
- A 1000-words summary and synthesis of what you have seen and read about these productions. You may focus on one particular area: design, directing, or acting.

- We will have a class period to discuss this project in detail at the end of October, giving you plenty of time to work on the assignment with us. **50% of the history grade will be on how well you follow a check-list we provide you; 50% will be based on the care and detail you put into the project.**

**Objective Terms/Definitions Exam (300 pts, 3 exams at 100 pts each):** Throughout the semester, we will provide you with online exams to show your understanding of concepts and terms from the course. You will get to take the exams more than once to ensure you are successfully able to demonstrate your theatre “literacy.”

### CLASSROOM POLICIES

#### **Attendance Policy:**

By university policy for classes that meet three times each week (MWF classes), you may not be penalized for up to 3 absences, nor may you be penalized for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; anything beyond that depends on the instructor’s discretion.

- After 3 absences, you will be penalized -3 points from your final course grade for each additional absence, unless there is written communication (email with specific dates, times, and reason) from the Dean of Students Office.
- Timely arrival is also part of attendance. For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded with 1/13<sup>th</sup> of a point to be added to your final course grade. (Don’t scoff: 39 of these “tasty treats” will raise your final course grade +3 points!)

#### **Late & Makeup Work**

You may make up a test or submit a project late only if you have legitimate and documented reason approved by the Dean of Students Office, e.g., university obligation, hospitalization, court appearance, jury duty, funeral. The Office of the Dean of Students is located in the Lohman Student Center; just take your document(s) to that office, which, in turn, will notify all of your professors by e-mail.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE : DAVE'S ROSTER**

Day	Month	Date	Class Focus	Teacher	Room
W	AUG	27	Combined: Syllabus	Both	PAC 240
F		29	Combined: Intros; Theatre vs. Ritual vs. Performance; Explain Blog	Both	PAC 240
M	SEPT	1	LABOR DAY		
W		3	Greek Origins & Aristotle	Dave	PAC 240
F		5	Origins: Non-Western	Vicky	UTC 135
M		8	Greek Tragedy: Architecture & Staging	Dave	PAC 240
W		10	Greek Tragedy: Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i>	Vicky	UTC 135
F		12	Greek Comedy: Architecture & Staging	Dave	PAC 240
M		15	Greek Comedy: Aristophanes' <i>Lysistrata</i>	Vicky	UTC 135
W		17	Roman Theatre & Staging	Dave	PAC 240
F		19	Roman Theatre: Play Excerpts	Vicky	UTC 135
M		22	Commedia	Dave	PAC 240
W		24	Commedia Scenarios & Improv	Vicky	UTC 135
F		26	Italian Renaissance & Design	Dave	PAC 240
M		29	Liturgical & Medieval Theatre & Staging	Dave	PAC 240
W	OCT	1	Cycle Plays & Moralities	Vicky	UTC 135
F		3	Combined: Check-Up on Blog/Show and Tell	Both	PAC 240
M		6	Combined: Elizabethan Theatre	Dave	PAC 240
W		8	Combined: Shakespeare	Vicky	PAC 240
F		10	Combined: Shakespeare	Vicky	PAC 240
M		13	Combined: Shakespeare	Vicky	PAC 240
W		15	Combined: Jacobean or Non-Western Theatre	Vicky	PAC 240
F		17	Combined: Non-Western Theatre	Vicky	PAC 240
M		20	Restoration Theatre	Dave	PAC 240
W		22	Restoration Comedy of Manners	Vicky	UTC 135
F		24	Spanish Golden Age	Dave	PAC 240
M		27	Restoration Women	Vicky	UTC 135
W		29	Combined: PROJECT/PRESENTATION	Both	TBA
F		31	Combined: PROJECT/PRESENTATION	Both	TBA
M	NOV	3	French Neoclassicism	Dave	PAC 240
W		5	Moliere's <i>Tartuffe</i>	Vicky	UTC 135
F		7	18 <sup>th</sup> Century British Overview	Dave	PAC 240
M		10	18 <sup>th</sup> Century British Plays	Vicky	UTC 135
W		12	Opera and Spectacle	Dave	PAC 240
F		14	Theatre Traditions of Japan	Vicky	UTC 135
M		17	Combined: Special/TBA	Dave	PAC 240
W		19	Combined: 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Spain, Italy, and France	Dave	PAC 240
F		21	Combined: 18 <sup>th</sup> Century: Germany	Dave	PAC 240
M		24	Combined: Makeup Class (Topic TBA)	Dave	PAC 240
W		26	Thanksgiving Holiday		
F		28	Thanksgiving Holiday		
M	DEC	1	Combined: Wrap-Up	Both	PAC 240
W		3	Production History Conferences	Both	TBA
F		5	Production History Conferences	Both	TBA
M		8			
W		10	Production History Due		
F		12			

*The instructor reserves the right to change or alter the calendar to meet the individual and unique needs of the course. You are responsible for noting any and all changes to the syllabus.*

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### **Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Any students found cheating on exams, or plagiarizing papers will FAIL the course.

### **Classroom Environment**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and peers with respect and dignity. Section 5.2.22 in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines classroom disturbances as any activity which proves distracting to the learning environment including but not limited to the use of cell phones or text messaging; the reading of materials (newspapers, magazines, texts) not assigned to the class; the use of profanity or abusive behavior toward the instructor or other students; having off-topic conversations which disturb or disrupt the learning environment; the use of computers and/or other electronic devices (Ipods, MP3 players, etc.) during classroom instruction, therefore, as a result, under no circumstances are cell phones or any other electronic devices to be used or seen during classroom instruction or examination. Even the visible presence of such a device during an examination will result in a zero on that examination. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during class. **Violations of the code of conduct will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the classroom and may at the instructor's discretion result in the student(s) being referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of Students.** Any assignments missed because of disciplinary action cannot be submitted for a grade.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex (tel. 936.294.1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

### **Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.