

History of Theatre II

Spring 2015
THEA 4360.01 (#21353)
MWF 10:00-10:50
Dan Rather Bldg. 319

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Appointments: Sign-up on Office Door

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Catalogue Description

A survey of changing styles in theatre, from the Romantic revolution through the Realistic movement to the innovations of the twentieth century theatre. Writing Enhanced. Credit 3.

Course Description

The content of the course covers the last 200 years of theatre history and will be divided into three units that are organized chronologically and/or topically: one, 19th century theatre; two, ISMs to 1950; and, three, topics in contemporary theatre.

Because the course is writing enhanced, at least 50% of more of your final course grade will result from your own, original writing.

Course Objectives

For each period and/or genre we explore within a given unit, you should be able to:

- understand why theatre was created: understand and appreciate the historical and cultural context;
- understand how theatre was produced: theatrical conventions, writing, financing, performance, design, technology, architecture, etc.;
- understand and appreciate how other contemporary theatre artists and companies are applying their knowledge in producing the "classics";
- become more theatre "literate" by understanding the facts: key terms, people, genres, and dates;
- and, communicate your ideas effectively through individual writing, primarily through blog posts.

Requirements/Graded Components

All grades will be recorded in Blackboard as points; here I share them as percentages, so you can see the relative values of the components. Details about graded components as well as the points/grades can be found on the attached "Points Available" sheet.

3 Unit Tests (each counts 10%) = 30% of final grade

4 Show & Tells (each counts 7½%) = 30% of final grade

4 Blog Prompts (each counts 5%) = 20% of final grade

1 Production History = 20% of final grade

You will receive bonus points by attending the five UTC season productions.

Recommended Texts

Oscar Brockett and Franklin Hildy, *History of the Theatre, Foundation Edition*

You may substitute "big" Brockett (*History of the Theatre*, 8th edition or later), if you already have a copy.

You are encouraged to buy a play anthology that you can use throughout your (college) career. On occasion, I may provide the Bedford (5th Edition) for in-class use.

Play Readings

We will explore excerpts from many plays in class using a provided play anthology (Bedford 5th Edition), which will include, but not be restricted to, the following:

A Doll House, Miss Julie

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Cherry Orchard, Riders to the Sea

Mother Courage

The Glass Menagerie, Death of a Salesman

Happy Days, A Raisin in the Sun

Betrayal, True West, Top Girls

Fences, M Butterfly

Angels in America

Fires in the Mirror

How I Learned to Drive

Topdog/Underdog

Play Attendance

You are asked to attend all five of our UTC productions this spring. Information gained from attending these productions will be used in class discussions, and your attendance will substitute for those classes that I have to cancel due to professional or personal reasons. Your theatre course fee provides you with one comp ticket to each UTC production this semester.

Unit Tests

There will be an-class, objective (right or wrong), handwritten test on each unit, primarily covering key terms, eras, people, and dates. You may use your handwritten notes as well as handouts, but you may not use electronic devices.

You are encouraged to bring a notebook and to take handwritten notes that you can use for these unit tests.

Presentations (Show & Tell)

On our class blog, you will post something interesting related to our given unit that you'd like to share with the class on your assigned Friday.

25 points for format, visuals, links, and captions.
25 points for the post's narrative of 150-250 words.
25 points for the presentation; 3 minutes max.

The writing must be in your own words applying correct grammar and spelling. Be sure to provide basic citation for your facts and any quotes. (Note: I do not count quotes as part of the word count.)

Blog Prompts

During the course of the semester, I will provide four different prompts on our class blog. You are asked to respond with an original comment of 75-100 words and then reply to at least one other student's comment in 50-75 words. Please use complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling. Be thoughtful in your comments and replies and write as a thinking artist (not as a Facebook status).

Production History

Your production history will cover five (5) noteworthy productions of your assigned title. For each of the five productions, you will provide two production stills and two highlighted reviews. For each production, you also will provide two 100-word paragraphs: the first is a description of the production and what makes it noteworthy (not a plot summary), and the second is your personal response to the production choices.

Final Exam

There is no final exam. Your production history is due during finals week, no later than Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m. in the UTC Office.

Late & Makeup Work

You may submit a project after the deadline without penalty only if you have legitimate and documented reason approved by the Dean of Students, 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.

Any project submitted after the deadline *without* approved reason will receive a one-letter grade penalty (minus 10 points) for *each week* overdue.

Attendance

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, unless there is written

intervention (with specific dates, times, and reason) from the Dean of Students.

For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded with 1/13th 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!)

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted as long as they are in spill-proof containers. Unless otherwise noted, laptops and tablets are not permitted. Please turn off cell phones and refrain from texting during class.

Think of how you hate seeing people text and talk during a performance...I hate it even more! It distracts me and makes me angry.

Academic Dishonesty

Any incident of academic dishonesty, most notably submitting someone else's work with your name on it, will result in a grade of zero for the project as well as a report to the department chair. Any subsequent incident will result in automatic course failure and a report to the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Dean of Students.

Final Course Grade

In percentages:

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

In points:

900-1000 = A, 800-899 = B, 700-799 = C, 600-699 = D

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and then talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation will be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Office

I will have a sign-up sheet on my office door for appointments (for class and/or advising). If you have questions or concerns, please come talk with me; that's what office hours are for. If you want to talk about projects or need advising, just sign-up for an office appointment.

When I arrive in the classroom, I need that time to set up for class. That is not the time to have discussions with you. A simple, quick question is fine, though.

Theatre History: Points Available

Unit Tests **300**

In-class, objective (right or wrong) test on each unit, primarily covering key terms, eras, people, and dates. You may use your handwritten notes as well as handouts, but you may not use electronic devices.

Unit #1	February 13	100
Unit #2	March 27	100
Unit #3	April 24	100

Show & Tell **300**

On our class blog, post something interesting related to our given unit that you'd like to share on your assigned Friday. 25 points for the post's format, visuals, links, and captions. 25 points for the post's narrative of 150-250 words. Complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling. 25 points for the presentation; 3 minutes max once you begin.

Show & Tell #1	January 30 or February 6	75
Show & Tell #2	March 6 or 20	75
Show & Tell #3	April 10 or 17	75
Show & Tell #4	April 27 or 29	75

Blogging **200**

On our class blog, comment (30 points) on the prompt I provide; your comment should be 75-100 words. Then reply (20 points) to someone else's comment; your reply should be 50-75 words. Complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling. Be thoughtful in your comments and replies and write as a thinking artist (not a Facebook status).

Prompt #1	January 23	50
Prompt #2	February 20	50
Prompt #3	April 3 (on Good Friday)	50
Prompt #4	May 1	50

Production History **200**

Your production history will cover five (5) noteworthy productions of your assigned title. For each of the five productions, you will provide two production stills and two highlighted reviews. For each production, you also will provide two 100-word paragraphs: the first is a description of the production and what makes it noteworthy (not a plot summary), and the second is your personal response to the production choices. There is no final exam. Your production history is due no later than Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m. in the UTC Office.

Required Elements (10 captioned pics, 10 highlighted reviews)	100
Narratives (2 paragraphs for each production = 10 paragraphs)	100

Bonus **50**

You automatically will receive 10 points for each of the five UTC season productions that you attend. Check the calendar included with the class syllabus for dates. You may substitute Top Girls for one of the five.

UTC Shows	10 each	50
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 11 Auditions Begin	12	13	14 Classes Begin	15	16 Symposium	17
18	19 MLK Holiday	20	21	22	23 Blog Prompt #1	24
25	26	27	28	29 TETA Begins	30 Show & Tell #1	31
February 1	2	3	4	5	6 Show & Tell #1	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Unit #1 Test	14
15	16	17	18 <i>Fences</i> Opens	19	20 Blog Prompt #2	21
22	23 Go to KCACTF <i>no class</i>	24	25 KCACTF <i>no class</i>	26	27 KCACTF <i>no class</i>	28
March 1 Return to SHSU	2 Clinics Begin	3	4	5	6 Show & Tell #2	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SPRING BREAK						
15	16	17	18 USITT Begins	19	20 Show & Tell #2	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Arabian</i> Opens	26	27 Unit #2 Test	28
29	30	31	April 1	2	3 Good Friday Blog Prompt #3	4
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10 Show & Tell #3	11
12	13	14	15 <i>Cabaret</i> Opens	16	17 Show & Tell #3	18
19	20	21 <i>Debuts</i> Open	22	23	24 Unit #3 Test	25
26	27 Show & Tell #4	28	29 Show & Tell #4	30	May 1 Classes End Blog Prompt #3	2
3 Convocation	4 Finals Begin <i>no final for us</i>	5	6 Prod History DUE by 5:00	7	8	9 Graduation