

History of Theatre I

Fall 2011

THEA 3360.01 (#86670) Tu/Th 2:00-3:20

THEA 3360.02 (#86671) Tu/Th 12:30-1:50

PAC 240

David McTier, Ph.D., Instructor

(936) 294-4063

Office: PAC 284-F

MWF 2:00-2:45; W 10:00-11:30

dam005@shsu.edu

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

The content of the course covers nearly 2400 years of theatre history and will be divided into three units: one, Classical Greece and Rome; two, Medieval, Renaissance, and Elizabethan Theatre; and three, Restoration, Neoclassical, and 18th Century Theatre.

Each unit will be comprised of 8-9 lecture/discussion classes culminating with an in-class, written exam or, if the student chooses, an individual project. Each exam/project counts 25% of the final course grade.

Instead of a final exam, each student will prepare a production history for an assigned play; this project counts 25% of the final course grade.

Since this is a writing-enhanced course, for each exam or project, at least 50% of the grade will come from the student's own 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.;
- 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";
- and, communicate your ideas effectively through individual writing.

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.

Required Reading

You should read the tagged chapters (or subchapters) in our textbook that correspond to the in-class lectures. You also are required to read the following three scripts in their entirety (copies will be posted on BlackBoard):

Antigone by Sophocles

Hamlet by Shakespeare

Tartuffe by Moliere

Other Requirements

You are required to attend the two fall UTC productions that coincide with our course's timeframe: *Comedy of Errors* (October 5-8) and *Playhouse Creatures* (November 30-December 3). Information gained from attending these productions will be used in class discussions and be included on exams. Also, your attendance will substitute for those rare classes that I, as instructor, have to cancel. Your theatre course fee provides you with one complimentary ticket to each UTC production this fall.

Graded Components

Unit #1 Exam or Project	(25%)	Tuesday, Sept. 27
Unit #2 Exam or Project	(25%)	Tuesday, Nov. 1
Unit #3 Exam or Project	(25%)	Tuesday, Dec. 6
Production History	(25%)	Thursday, Dec. 15

Exams

Each exam will be comprised of two parts. Part 1 will be 50 objective items (matching; each worth 1 point; 50% of exam grade); this part is from memory—no notes. Part 2 (50% of exam grade) will be an application of your knowledge in short essay form; for this part, you may use your own notes and handouts.

Each exam will be given only once; you may not retake any part of any exam. If you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date for legitimate reasons (see "Late & Makeup Work"), you may take the exam at an alternate time.

Individual Projects

You have the option of proposing and pursuing an individual project in lieu of taking a unit exam. Each project consists of two parts, each is worth 50% of the project grade. The first part is a creative endeavor, e.g., designing and making a commedia mask; the second part

is a 1000+ word essay documenting your process and explaining the historical context for your project.

You must propose your project in writing (e-mail is acceptable) at least 3 weeks before the due date (when the unit exam is scheduled). At the beginning of class on that exam day, you are to submit the creation and the paper. If you are not finished, then you must take the unit exam.

Final Project

Early in the semester, you will be assigned a play title for which you will prepare a production history that is worth 25% of your final course grade and due at the end of the final exam period (Thursday, Dec. 15, at 4:00 p.m.). This history is comprised of three parts:

1. 25 images (with captions) covering at least 10 different, professional productions; each is worth 1 point.
2. 25 reviews (with basic info highlighted) covering at least 10 different, professional productions; each is worth one point.
3. A 1000+ word summary and synthesis of what you have seen and read about these productions. You may focus on one particular area: design, directing, or acting. This counts 50 points (½ of the project grade).

Final Exam

There is no final exam, and we do not meet as a class during finals week. Instead, your production history is due no later than the end of the final exam period: Thursday, Dec. 15, at 4:00 p.m.

Late & Makeup Work

You may reschedule an exam (or turn in a project late) 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.

Attendance

By university policy for classes that meet two times each week (T-day classes), you may not be penalized for up to 2 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 2 absences, you will be penalized -5 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 1/10th of a point to be added to your final course grade. (Don't scoff: 30 of these "tasty treats" will raise your final course grade +3 points!)

Please note that there are two sections of this course this semester. On any given day (including exams), you may attend either the 12:30 or 2:00 class.

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Water is permitted in spill-proof containers; other beverages are not. Laptops are not permitted. Please turn off cell phones and refrain from texting during class.

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

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

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.