

History of Theatre II
THEA 4360.01 (CRN 21050)
Spring 2013
T Days 11:00-12:20
PAC 240

David McTier, Ph.D., Instructor
(936) 294-4063
Office: PAC 284-F
MWF 1:00-1:45; T Days 10:00-10:45
dam005@shsu.edu

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 and will be divided into three units: one, 19th Century Theatre; two, Major ISMs of the 20th Century; and three, Theatre Since 1968.

Each unit will be comprised of 12 or more classes (lecture/discussion) culminating with an individual project. Each 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 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 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):

A Doll's House by Ibsen
The Bald Soprano by Ionesco
Angels in America by Kushner

Other Requirements

You are required to attend all four spring UTC productions. Information gained from attending these productions will be used in class discussions and be included on exams. Also, your attendance will substitute for those classes that I, as instructor, have to cancel for professional or personal reasons. Your theatre course fee provides you with one complimentary ticket to each UTC production this spring.

Graded Components

Project #1	(25%)	Thursday, Feb. 14
Project #2	(25%)	Thursday, March 28
Project #3	(25%)	Thursday, May 2
Production History	(25%)	Thursday, May 9

Projects: Option #1

Instead of taking examinations that cover the content of the course, you have the option of preparing a resource book (or website) that covers this content but from the perspective of a designer/technician, actor/director, or classroom teacher.

Your resource book (or website) should cover vocabulary, movements, concepts, as well as significant persons and dates that you (and others in your field) need to know to be history "smart." You also must include photos, diagrams, and other visual resources that help illustrate your content.

If you pursue this option, you do not need to propose or submit anything in advance.

Projects: Option #2

You have the option of proposing and pursuing an individual research or creative project in lieu of Option #1 (above). Each project consists of two parts, each is

worth 50% of the project grade. The first part is a research or creative endeavor, e.g., designing a Bauhaus-style costume; the second part is a 1000+ word essay documenting your process and explaining the historical context for your project. (Research projects should begin with a 100-word abstract and list of sources.)

You must propose your project in writing (e-mail is acceptable) at least two (2) 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: Production History

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 no later than the end of the final exam period (Wednesday, Dec. 12, 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. (No point given if lacking caption.)
2. 25 reviews (with basic info highlighted) covering at least 10 different, professional productions; each is worth one point. (No point given if lacking highlighting.)
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).

You will submit this production history in hard copy to my faculty box in the UTC office.

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, May 9, at 4:00 p.m.

Late & Makeup Work

You may submit 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 for each additional absence, 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!)

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Water is permitted in spill-proof containers; other beverages are not. Laptops and other forms of electronic recording devices are not permitted; however, you are welcome to audiotape class if you place your device on the teacher's console. 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.