

History of Theatre I

Fall 2013

THEA 3360.01 (#82348) MWF 1:00-1:50

THEA 3360.02 (#82349) MWF 2:00-2:50

PAC 240

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Daily 2:00-2:45 or by appointment

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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, Commedia, Medieval, and Renaissance Theatre; and three, Elizabethan, Restoration, and Neoclassical Theatre.

Each unit will be comprised of 8-9 lecture/discussion classes culminating with an individual project. Each unit project counts 30% of the final course grade.

The remaining 10% results from a comprehensive, objective exam covering key terms and images. Students take this exam at the end of the semester.

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.

You are encouraged to buy a play anthology that you can use throughout your (college) career. I will provide the Bedford (5th Edition) for in-class use; you are welcome to buy or rent a copy of this (or later editions).

Play Readings

This semester, I am increasing emphasis on and inclusion of dramatic literature (plays) in classes and projects. Consequently, we will be exploring excerpts from many plays in class using a provided play anthology (Bedford 5th Edition). If you would like to finish reading certain titles, you may do so for credit as an option in “Theatre History Projects.”

Titles to be included:

Antigone
Medea
Lysistrata
The Twin Menaechmi
The Second Shepherd's Play
Everyman
Doctor Faustus
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Hamlet
The Misanthrope (or Tartuffe)
The Rover
She Stoops to Conquer

Play Attendance

You are asked to attend all four of our UTC productions this fall. 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 complimentary ticket to each UTC production this fall.

Graded Components

Unit #1 Project	(30%)	Friday, Sept. 27
Unit #2 Project	(30%)	Friday, Oct. 25
Unit #3 Project	(30%)	Friday, Nov. 22
Vocabulary Exam	(10%)	end of semester

Projects

For each unit, you will choose and submit a project that corresponds to that unit. Each is worth 30% of your final course grade. Please consult the “Theatre History Projects” handout and section in Blackboard for details.

While a requirement in the past, production histories now will be a project option that can be done as an option for any of the three units.

Vocabulary Exam

This is a 100-item objective exam that you will take at the end of the semester. This exam counts as 10% of your final course grade. A vocabulary list will be “grown” on Blackboard, but you will be responsible for gathering the definitions and associated images from class lectures. This exam is worth 10% of final grade and may be taken during the last week of the semester or during the final exam period. There is no other final exam or final meeting.

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!)

Please note that there are two sections of this course this semester. On any given day, you may attend either the 1:00 or 2:00 class.

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted as long as they are in spill-proof containers. Laptops 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

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.

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.