

**THR 360W: History of Theatre I**  
**Fall 2009**  
MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.  
CID #4579  
CJ 115

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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 and will be divided into three units: one, Classical Theatre (Ancient Greece and Rome); two, Medieval and Renaissance Theatre; and three, Restoration, Neoclassical, and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Theatre. Each unit usually will be comprised of 13 lecture/discussion classes culminating with an objective exam. These three exams constitute 50% of your final course grade.

Given that this is a writing enhanced course, the remainder of your grade will come from two independent research projects, each worth 25% of your final course grade and each approximately 1000 words in length. The focus of this research is practical application of history and theory to theatre production, e.g., for a particular play title, you may be asked to prepare a production history, directorial concept, lesson plan, or a design concept.

### 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.

### Required Texts

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

You may substitute "big" Brockett (*History of the Theatre*, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 both UTC Mainstage productions this semester: *Eurydice* (October 14-17) and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (November 18-21). Information gained from attending these productions will be used in class discussions. In addition, 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 of these productions.

You are encouraged to attend the three Showcase productions: *The Fantasticks* (Sept. 22-26), *As It Is In Heaven* (October 27, 29, 31), and *Talk Radio* (Oct. 28, 30, 31).

### Graded Components

Unit #1 In-Class Exam	(17%)	Friday, Sept. 25 at 2 pm
Mid-Term Project	(25%)	Friday, Oct. 16 at 2 pm
Unit #2 In-Class Exam	(17%)	Friday, Oct. 30 at 2 pm
Unit #3 In-Class Exam	(16%)	Monday, Dec. 7 at 2 pm
Final Project	(25%)	Monday, Dec. 14 at 5 pm

### Exams

Each exam will be comprised of 100 objective questions, each worth 1 point. You must know the correct answer and its correct spelling. You will take each exam during class the first time (hopefully via Blackboard) and then be permitted two additional takes outside the class period. Only your best score for each exam will be counted. You may not use any notes (or each other) for these exams. The point is to learn the essential "facts" of theatre history that will enhance your fluency as a theatre practitioner.

### Individual Projects

Your **mid-term project** (appr. 1000 words and worth 25% of your final course grade) will be a production history of an assigned (pre-modern) play. You will cover 10 different productions of your play, giving each a paragraph to describe the ways in which that particular production might be considered "conventional" or not. More specific guidelines will

be given later. This project is due at the beginning of class on Friday, October 16.

For your **final project**, you will submit either a production concept (directorial concept, design concept, or dramaturg's statement) OR a lesson plan (in essay form with state and national standards). This project is due no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, December 14 (final exam period).

### Late & Makeup Work

If you submit the mid-term project late, you will be penalized one letter grade for each week overdue. No accommodations are made for the final project, which is due at the final exam period.

### 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 our department chair or the Dean of Students.

For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded 1/13<sup>th</sup> of a point to be added to your final course grade. (Don't scoff: 39 of these "tasty treats" would raise your final course grade +3 points!)

### Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. I tolerate gum as long as I cannot see, hear, or smell it. Beverages are permitted as long as they are in spill-proof containers. Laptops are not permitted. Please turn off your cell phones and do not attempt to text anyone 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 Arts & Sciences 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.

### Tentative Schedule

AUG	24	M	Syllabus; A Sense of History
	26	W	What is Theatre? Begin Unit #1
	28	F	
	31	M	
SEPT	2	W	
	4	F	
	7	M	<i>Labor Day: No Class</i>
	9	W	
	11	F	
	14	M	
	16	W	
	18	F	
	21	M	
	23	W	
	<b>25</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Unit #1 EXAM</b>
	28	M	
	30	W	
OCT	2	F	
	5	M	
	7	W	
	9	F	
	12	M	
	14	W	
	<b>16</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>MID-TERM PROJECT due at 11:00 am</b>
	19	M	
	21	W	
	23	F	
	26	M	
	28	W	
	<b>30</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Unit #2 EXAM</b>
NOV	2	M	
	4	W	
	6	F	
	9	M	
	11	W	
	13	F	
	16	M	
	18	W	
	20	F	
	23	M	
	25	W	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class</i>
	27	F	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class</i>
	30	M	
	2	W	
	4	F	
	<b>7</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Unit #3 EXAM</b>
	9	W	
	11	F	
	<b>14</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Final Project due at 5:00 pm</b>