

THR 360W: HISTORY OF THEATRE I

CID 4042

Spring 2008

MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

CJC C210 (Criminal Justice Center)

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Hours: MWF 11:00:12:00, 1:00-1:45; TuTh by appointment

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

Through lectures and discussions on Mondays and Wednesdays, we will explore the historical development of dramatic art, focusing on particular genres that still are produced today: classical tragedy, classical comedy, commedia dell'arte, medieval, Elizabethan histories, Elizabethan non-histories, Restoration prose comedy, French Neoclassical verse comedy, opera, and early musical theatre forms.

On most Fridays, we will work together in the computer lab on your assigned projects, which are designed to apply the knowledge in ways that may be of value to you as a theatre professional, graduate student, and/or theatre teacher.

Course Objectives

To understand why theatre was created: understand and appreciate the historical and cultural context;

To understand a variety of historical genres and styles, especially those still being produced today;

To understand how theatre was produced: theatrical conventions, writing, financing, performance, design, technology, architecture, etc.;

To 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,

To communicate your ideas effectively through individual writing.

Textbook (Recommended)

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

Graded Components

5 best of 6 total individual project grades, each worth 20% of final course grade.

Project #1 due Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 2:00 p.m.

Project #2 due Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 2:00 p.m.

Project #3 due Wednesday, March 24, at 2:00 p.m.

Project #4 due Wednesday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Project #5 due Wednesday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.

Project #6 due Monday, May 10, at 5:00 p.m.

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 for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; 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 with 1/13th of a point (a "tasty treat") to be added to your final course grade.

Late Work

Any project submitted late will be penalized one letter grade (-10 points) for each week overdue.

Final Exam

There is no final exam that you must attend; however, your final project is due that day (Monday, May 10, at 5:00 p.m.).

Classroom Conduct

Food and candy are not permitted in the classroom. Beverages are permitted, if they are in spill-proof containers. Laptops are permitted only on Fridays, when we work in the computer lab. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight.

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.