

THR 360W: HISTORY OF THEATRE I

CID 3373

Spring 2011

TuTh 9:30-10:50 a.m.

PAC 240 (Performing Arts Center)

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Office: PAC 284-F

Hours: MWF 10:00-11:45 a.m.

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

This course focuses on the history of theatre production and the development of dramatic genres from the ancient Greeks (534 BCE) until roughly 1800 CE. Most classes will be lecture-discussion format incorporating lots of visual resources (PowerPoint presentations and DVD excerpts) as well as readings (excerpts from plays).

This course is "writing enhanced," and over 50% of your grade will come from writing. (Please note, you must have completed ENG 165W to take this course.) Non-theatre majors and minors are welcome but should note that this is not an introductory course.

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 individual projects and 2 vocabulary tests. All projects must be typed and submitted in hard copy.

Project #1 (15%) due Thursday, Feb. 10, at beginning of class

Project #2 (15%) due Thursday, March 3, at beginning of class

Vocabulary Test (10%) on Thursday, March 10, at end of class

Project #3 (15%) due Thursday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m.

Project #4 (15%) due Thursday, April 21, at beginning of class

Vocabulary Test (10%) on Thursday, May 5, at end of class

Project #5 (20%) due Thursday, May 12, at 12:00 noon

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 for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; beyond that depends on instructor discretion.

After 2 absences, you will be penalized -5 points from your final course grade for each excess absence, 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 1/8th 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 nor class meeting during the final exam period. No materials will be accepted after 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 12.

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.