

Lamar University
College of Fine Arts and Communication
Department of Theatre & Dance

THEATRE HISTORY I

FALL 2010

THEA 3361
MWF 11:15-12:05
Theatre Arts 102

Instructor: Dr. Judith Sebesta
Office: 101 Theatre Arts Bldg.
Office Phone: 880-8037
Judy.sebesta@lamar.edu
Office Hours by Appt. Only

“Theatre, one of the oldest and most enduring forms of art, enables us to understand not only the past but also the present. Theatre history and dramatic literature are embodiments of the cultural assumptions and values that in each era have made theatre a mirror of society and this mirroring can bring the concerns of the time to the forefront.” –Oscar Brockett

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The theatre history sequence covers the origins and development of the arts of world theatre from early ritual to modern times, integrating the study of plays, theatre architecture, dramatic styles, and theories of significant periods. This specific course will examine significant developments in ritual, theatre, and performance up to the nineteenth century, in Ancient Greece and Rome, Medieval Europe, Renaissance and Enlightenment Europe, and classical Asia. Through discussion, debates, images, videos, readings, exams, papers, presentations, and projects, students will become familiar with theatrical practices, figures, and texts across a broad spectrum of contexts, definitions, and approaches.

The following are some of the primary overall objectives of this course:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
3. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity, including that of non-western cultures
4. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view, both orally and written.

TEXTS:

Theatre Histories: An Introduction, by Phillip B. Zarilli et al. (TH)
A handheld, electronic student response device (available from the bookstore)
Plays are available either online or on reserve in the theatre office.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

You are required to attend the following Lamar Theatre Productions:

A Doll's House

September 29-30, Oct. 1, 3-5

Studio Theatre

A Lesson Before Dying

November 3-7

University Theatre

Student tickets cost \$5. Failure to attend will result in your grade being lowered 50 points for each production, for a possible total 100 point deduction.

EXAMS, PROJECT, ASSIGNMENT, AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

Guidelines for these will be available on Blackboard.

EVALUATION:	Points
Exam #1	100
Exam #2	150
Exam #3	200
Group Project	100
Research Assignment	150
10 clicker exercises @10 each	100
5 Online Discussions @ 20 each	100
Class participation	100
Total	1000

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A 900 – 1000

B 800 – 899

C 700 – 799

D 600 – 699

F Below 600

COURSE TECHNOLOGY:

This Web-Enhanced course will utilize Blackboard for extensive online communications. You should check Blackboard every day for announcements, online discussions, and other course business.

What to Expect from a Web-Enhanced Course - This course is designed to meet both face-to-face and virtually. It is essential that you consult the course site daily to access course announcements, engage in online discussions, check grades, etc.

What the Instructor and Your Peers Expect from You - By enrolling in this course, you have agreed to contribute to discussions by accessing the bulletin board regularly. This will require a team effort, with respect and help for each other, as we build a community of learners. I also expect that you will have a foundational understanding of Internet terms and functions.

What You May Expect from the Instructor - Monitor email no less than once a day and respond within 24 to 48 hours, facilitate online discussions and help build a learning community, both online and in the classroom.

PARTICIPATION:

It is imperative that you read the assigned material **by** the day listed on the syllabus (when you will be given a quiz on it). Although quality of class contribution is more important than quantity, it is expected that you will participate regularly. See Blackboard for guidelines for online discussion participation.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are allowed three absences for any reason; any absences (except for University approved absences with documentation) beyond this allowed amount will result in the loss of 100 points per absence. Three tardies (arriving after 11:15) equal one absence. Please inform the instructor in writing if you are coming across campus or of any other legitimate reason you may be late on a regular basis.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY:

Late work is accepted (except exams), but for every day the assignment is late, the grade will be lowered 1 letter grade. The only excuse to submit a late exam is because of a BBoard outage.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Because I value your feedback and want to be sure the class best meets your needs, I encourage you to take advantage of online end-of-semester course evaluations.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY:

***All cell phones, ipods, and other electronic devices **must be turned OFF** at the beginning of class. Laptop computers may be used to take notes; **HOWEVER**, you may only use a word processing program. If you use any electronic devices for purposes not pertaining to class (e.g. text messaging, Facebook, etc), you will be given a warning. Repeated instances will result in dismissal from the class: **TWO STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT.**

Different students are likely to have different issues that interest them, different understandings of class materials, and different opinions on a wide range of topics. It is important to the environment of this class that we are able to speak honestly and to disagree openly. It is essential, however, that we do so from a position of respect for each other. Any student who is disrespectful to the instructor, fellow students, or guests either in class or online (including on the discussion board and via email) will be given a warning. Repeated instances will result in dismissal from the class: **TWO STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT.**

“Disruptive Behavior” generally means conduct that materially and substantially interferes with or obstructs the teaching or learning process in the context of the classroom. Besides the above, disruptive behavior also includes conduct that distracts others in a manner that interferes with instructional activities or fails to adhere to an instructor’s classroom rules, such as: excessive tardies, cell phones ringing in class, talking during lectures, sleeping, and reading materials other than those covered in class that day.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES

For students with disabilities, this course will comply with all accommodations prescribed by the Lamar University Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to insure that I have been informed, in writing, of all prescribed accommodations. I will be happy to assist you.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The Lamar University Student Handbook states:

Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on and examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. (81)

One aspect of the Handbook's definition of cheating is "purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own any research paper or other assignment" (82). Plagiarism is defined as, "the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or ideas into one's own offered for credit" (82).

Students seeking guidance to avoid plagiarism should consult me, recent handbooks, or the University Writing Center.

Punishments for academic dishonesty range from an F in the course, to an F on the assignment, to re-submission of the work. Punishments are at my discretion, and may be appealed to the dean and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Flagrant or repeat violations may warrant further discipline by the university including probation and suspension.

The Texas State University System has established the following Disciplinary Procedures for Academic Dishonesty:

- (1) Academic Process. All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean, and eventually, to the vice president for academic affairs (whose decision shall be final) before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, and opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. After completion of the academic process, the academic officer making final disposition of the case shall refer the matter to the chief student affairs officer for any additional discipline that may be appropriate.
- (2) Disciplinary Process. In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the chief student affairs officer may take such additional disciplinary action as he/she deems appropriate. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process under *Subsection 5.6* and following exception as provided under *Subsection 5.15* of the Texas State University System Board of Regents Handbook.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Last day for late registration /schedule revisions w/ fee is Aug. 25

The last day to drop or withdraw without academic penalty is Sept. 27

The last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty is Nov. 1

PLEASE NOTE: This course may contain mature subject matter related to course content, including explicit language and violence, as well as material that is sexual in nature.

This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice, given in class and via Announcements on Blackboard.

Course Schedule:

(Please complete the assigned reading by the class day on which it is listed)

Date	Topic	Reading
8/23 Monday	Introduction, Review Syllabus	
8/25 Wednesday	Performance	TH xvii-xxv
8/27 Friday	Ritual	TH 29-44
8/30 Monday	Theatre: Ancient Greece	TH 58-65, 88-96
9/1 Wednesday	Ancient Greece cont.	
9/3 Friday	Tragedy	
9/6 Monday	No Class: Labor Day	
9/8 Wednesday	Tragedy cont.	<i>Medea</i>
9/10 Friday	Comedy	<i>Lysistrata</i>
9/13 Monday	Roman Theatre	TH 104-110
9/15 Wednesday	Roman Paratheatricals	
9/17 Friday	Review: Exam One	
Exam One Due Sunday, 9/19		
9/20 Monday	Theatre of the Middle Ages	TH 71-80
9/22 Wednesday	Theatre of the Middle Ages cont.	
9/24 Friday	The English Renaissance	TH 175-79
9/27 Monday	The English Renaissance cont.	TH 227-233
9/29 Wednesday	<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>	
10/1 Friday	<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>	
10/4 Monday	<i>Shakespeare in Love</i>	
10/6 Wednesday	Shakespeare	
10/8 Friday	Shakespeare cont.	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>
10/11 Monday	Spanish Golden Age	TH 179-182
10/13 Wednesday	Italian Renaissance	TH 185-87
10/15 Friday	Italian Renaissance cont.	TH 173-75

10/18 Monday **Exam Two Review**
10/20 Wednesday **Open Day**

Exam Two due Thursday 10/21

10/22 Friday Restoration England TH 206-209

10/25 Monday Restoration England cont.

10/27 Wednesday Presentations

10/29 Friday Presentations

11/1 Monday Presentations

11/3 Wednesday Beijing Opera

11/5 Friday *Farewell My Concubine*

11/8 Monday *Farewell My Concubine*

11/10 Wednesday *Farewell My Concubine*

11/12 Friday *Farewell My Concubine*

11/15 Monday Discuss Film

11/17 Wednesday Neoclassical France TH 182-85, 200-03

11/19 Friday **Research Day**

11/22 Monday Neoclassical France cont. *Tartuffe*

11/24 Wednesday **Research Day**

11/26 Friday **No Class: Thanksgiving**

11/29 Monday Classical Japanese Traditions TH 120-23

Research Project Due Monday, 11/29

12/1 Wednesday Classical Japanese Traditions cont. TH 157-66, 219-26

12/3 Friday **Open Day**

12/6 Monday Sentimentalism &
Rise of Middle Class TH 235-245

12/8 Wednesday **Exam Three Review and Wrap-Up**

Exam Three Due Monday 12/13