

2014

THTR 205-01 Theatre History I

Dave Zlatic

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THTR 205: Theatre History I

Contact Information

Professor – Dave Zlatic
Office Number – 513-745-3613
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Office – Gallagher Student Center #10
Email – zlatidc@xavier.edu

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday – 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
I am also typically available in the Shop Monday-Friday in the afternoons. More specific times to be listed at a later date
Other times available by appointment

Course Description

Study of the major designs, structures, plays, innovators and practitioners in the theatre from Ancient Egypt through 1800 A.D., including Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Renaissance and Shakespeare.

Course Objectives

Students will understand the role theatre has played, throughout history, in society.

Students will analyze the impact of historical trends in design, directing and acting to the modern day theatre.

Students will develop broad-based knowledge of the history of theatre.

Students will articulate the major trends in theatre throughout history, and relate them to current productions and ideas in theatre.

Students will utilize research methods to come to a deeper understanding of the current ideas and methodologies in the modern theatre, and how they relate to them.

Class Procedure

Introduction to Theatre will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, and class participation. Student input is always welcomed, and encouraged. **STUDENT interaction will make this class more enjoyable!!!**

Required Textbooks

Goldfarb, Alvin & Wilson, Edwin. Living Theatre: A History of Theatre – 6TH Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-07-338220-3

NOTE: Other Play Readings throughout the semester.

Grading Breakdown

Research Paper and Presentation	20%
Quizzes	15%
Assignments	10%
Play Response	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

	89-87: B+	79-77: C+	70-60: D
100-93: A	86-83: B	76-73: C	59-0: F
92-90: A-	82-80: B-	72-70: C-	

Students can expect a grade of “C” for meeting the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance.

Course Requirements / Expectations

- 1.) **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN CLASS.** Exception for closed water bottles
- 2.) **NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.** Please turn off all phones when entering class.
- 3.) **Class Participation** - Students are expected to actively participate in each class and contribute to the overall class experience.
 - a. **Students are expected to be on time to class and to stay for the entire session.** You should not leave class during our scheduled time, and never during a quiz, exam or presentation. Class is only 75 minutes, so please take the necessary precautions prior to the start time.
 - b. The use of electronic equipment (cell phones, computers, ipads, etc) for anything except class purposes will result in being marked tardy for that class
 - c. Disruption of class or inappropriate behavior will result in being marked tardy for that class. Serious disruption or inappropriate behavior will result in being marked absent for that class.
 - d. For each time that you arrive late or leave early (by leaving early, I also mean stepping out of the room for any reason during class time), you will be counted tardy. Two tardies will equal one absence for the course.
- 4.) **Class Attendance** – The understanding of theatre is learned mainly from participation in class and attendance. Therefore, class attendance is required. **More than two unexcused absences** will result in the loss of 3% points from your final grade. For each additional class missed, an additional loss of 2% points will occur. If problems do occur (ie sickness, family problems, etc) please contact me so we can make arrangements.
 - a. Excused absences will only be granted with a doctor’s note, excusal letter from another XU department or obituary listing.
 - b. See Section 4 regarding other ways students could be marked as absent.
- 5.) **Assignments** – Assignments will be distributed throughout the semester. Assignments are to be turned in on time. **Written work will not be accepted late without prior arrangements with the instructor.** All written work will be collected at the beginning of the class during which it is due. “Late” is defined as any moment after the material has been collected in class. If it is your intention to email any assignment, that email must carry a time stamp identifying the message as being sent before the class period in which it is due. If you are ill or have a medical emergency, you will not receive a “0” if you provide a doctor’s written excuse.

- 6.) **Final Research Paper and Presentation** –Students will research a specific topic relevant to a specific era of theatre history. This topic could include playwrights, directors, specific plays, designers or practitioners important in theatre history. The research paper should be no less than 10 pages in length and should follow MLA format. Students will present a 5-8 minute summary of their research to the entire class.
- 7.) **Production Attendance** – The faculty of the Department of Music and Theatre agree that attendance at our program productions and performances is one of the more valuable educational experiences offered by our school. As students in this class, you are required to attend *Last Five Years* (September 5 & 6), *Godspell* (October 17-19 & 24-25) and *Black Fly Spring* (December 4-7), all in the Gallagher Student Center Theatre.
 - a. You are also encouraged to attend a music concert and an art exhibition.
 - b. A ticket stub must be turned in after closing of the play. **Without a ticket stub, your attendance will not be counted.**
 - c. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.xavier.edu/theatre> or at the Music and Theatre Department Box Office.
 - d. **A SOLD OUT SHOW IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT ATTENDING THE PLAY. Please buy tickets in advance.**
- 8.) **Quizzes** – Short quizzes will be given throughout the semester. You will be given prior notice before each quiz. Quizzes will be given at the start of the class. If you are not present at the start of the class, you may not take the quiz. **Quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence listed in 5.b.**
- 9.) **Midterm Exam, & Final Exam** - The Midterm and Final Exam will consist of objective identification of important terms and concepts, along with examples from plays read during the course to that time.
- 10.) **Play Response Paper** - Students will turn in one play response during the course of the semester. This paper will be in response to a professional production associated with an era discussed in the class that the student saw during the term.
 - a. **NO HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
 - b. The show of the student's choosing, should be approved with the instructor **PRIOR** to purchasing tickets with the permission of the instructor.
 - c. The response will be due by the last day of class.
 - d. The papers should focus on the concepts we have learned and discussed
 - e. Papers should be no shorter than four (4) pages in length, double-spaced.
 - f. A ticket stub must be attached to the paper. **Without a ticket stub, your attendance will not be counted.**

Academic Honesty

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honest. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. (2008-10 Xavier Catalogue, page 54.) See catalogue for full statement on academic honesty.

Learning Assistance Center

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week of August 25	Introductions
Week of September 1	Wed: Chapter 1 Fri: Chapter 2 – Greek Theatre
Week of September 8	Wed: Aeschylus – <i>Agamemnon</i> (458 BCE) Fri: Euripides – <i>The Bacchae</i> (406 BCE) QUIZ #1
Week of September 15	Wed: Chapter 3 – Roman Theatre Fri: Plautus – <i>Pseudolus</i> (191 BCE)
Week of September 22	Wed: Seneca – <i>Thyestes</i> (60 CE) QUIZ #2 Fri: Chapter 4 – Early Asian Theater
Week of September 29	Wed: Shudraka – <i>The Little Clay Cart</i> (ca. 2 nd or 3 rd Century CE) QUIZ #3 Fri: Chapter 5 – Medieval Theatres in Europe
Week of October 6	Wed: The Wakefield Master – <i>The Second Shepard's Play</i> (ca 1475) Fri: NO CLASS FALL HOLIDAY
Week of October 13	Wed: Anonymous – <i>Everyman</i> (ca 1510) QUIZ #4 Fri: Catch up Day
Week of October 20	Wed: Midterm Exam Fri: Chapter 6 – Italian Renaissance
Week of October 27	Wed: Italian Renaissance Commedia dell'arte Architecture QUIZ #5 Fri: Chapter 7 – English Renaissance
Week of November 3	Wed: Marlowe – <i>Doctor Faustus</i> Fri: Webster – <i>Duchess of Malfi</i> QUIZ #6
Week of November 10	Wed: Chapter 8 – Spanish Golden Age Fri: Calderon – <i>Life is a Dream</i> QUIZ #7
Week of November 17	Wed: Chapter 9 – French Neoclassical Theatre Fri: Racine – <i>Phaedra</i> or Corneille – <i>Le Cid</i> QUIZ #8
Week of November 24	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week of December 1	Wed: Chapter 10 – English Restoration Fri: Wycherley – <i>The Country Wife</i> QUIZ #9
Week of December 8	Wed: Theatres in the 18 th Century Fri: Sheridan – <i>School for Scandal</i> QUIZ #10
Week of December 15	FINAL EXAM – Friday, December 19, 2:00-3:50