

THAR 281-500: Theatre History II
Department of Performance Studies
Spring 2017

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Office Location: 259 LAAH

Class Meeting Times: TR 9:35 am - 10:50 am

Class Meeting Location: HECC 108

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 am -10:30 am or by appointment

Course Description

Theatre History II is a survey of the history of Western theatre from the closing of the theatres in England in 1642 to the present; with a brief introduction to the theatre of the East.

The course is for non-theatre majors and minors only.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes

Through this course students will:

- Distinguish between different types of performance and performance spaces, as well as the structure of plays and different dramatic forms.
- Identify and discuss different historical periods in theatre, contemporary trends and movements in theatre as indebted to historical predecessors, as well as, articulate ways in which theatre has reflected and affected society.
- Operate analytically within a group of peers in order to analyze theatrical diversity and theatre as a window into the conscience of a specific society.
- Recognize and appreciate theatre as a form of personal, often controversial, expression; and judge the merit of personal expression in comparison with its possible social and political ramifications.
- Challenge and assess their position as a global citizen by examining different global traditions in performance; and evaluate the ethics of art without a political or personal agenda.

Texas A&M University has identified student learning outcomes that describe our institutional commitment to your educational goals. These include the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, effective communication, and social, cultural, and global competence. Please see:

http://provost.tamu.edu/essentials/pdfs/copy_of_UndergraduateLearningOutcomesFinal.pdf

To successfully complete this course you must:

- Attend and participate in all class meetings.
- Assume responsibility for all information given in class (both spoken and written).
- Complete all reading, written, and media assignments. All homework assignments will be submitted via eCampus unless otherwise stated on the syllabus. No work will be accepted via email.

- Proofread all homework assignments for spelling and grammatical errors.
- Become familiar with the eCampus website as important course information, assignments, quizzes and tests will be posted there.

Required Materials

- Subscription to the Top Hat classroom response system (See more information below.)

Required Texts

- Custom Textbook: Theatre History II for THAR 281 - Texas A&M Edition ISBN: 9781308870021
- *A Doll's House*, by Henrik Ibsen
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2542/2542-h/2542-h.htm>
- *Topdog/Underdog*, by Suzan-Lori Parks (available as eBook from TAMU library)
- *God of Carnage*, by Yasmina Reza (pdf available on eCampus)

Required Videos

- *Storytelling - Something Just Out of Sight: PigPen Theatre Company at TEDxColumbiaSIPA* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV5ZY-eAU9I>)
- *The Country Wife*, by William Wycherly (available on MediaMatrix)
- *She Stoops to Conquer*, by Oliver Goldsmith (available on MediaMatrix)
- *Waiting for Godot*, by Samuel Beckett (available on MediaMatrix)
- *Oklahoma!*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein (available on MediaMatrix or at <http://www.pbs.org/video/2365121337/>)
- *The Artist is Present*, HBO film (available on MediaMatrix)
- Mabou Mines *DollHouse*, adapted by Lee Bruer (available on MediaMatrix)

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview

(<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>)

within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/035646>

Note: our Course Join Code is 035646

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

E-mail

E-mail communication is an important part of both the academic and theatrical worlds. It is your

responsibility to check your e-mail regularly and promptly reply when needed. I will do the same.

Assignments and Grading

All grades will be posted on the eCampus website. Please review your grade throughout the semester. If you have grade related questions or concerns, please see me during office hours or make an appointment. In accordance with The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) I will not discuss grades in the classroom or via e-mail.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance	5%
In Class Responses	5%
Theatre History Paper	5%
Online Quizzes	25%
Tests 4 @ 15% each	60%

Media Assignments

There will be visual media assignments required outside of class. These can be streamed through <http://mediamatrix.tamu.edu/> (login using NetID and password and click on our class link). You may also access media on the 4th-floor library annex.

Written Assignments

Detailed instructions for written assignments will be posted on eCampus. All homework assignments are due before class begins and must be submitted online through eCampus in doc or pdf formats. In-class assignments must be turned in at the end of the class session. **Late assignments will not be accepted except in the case of an excused absence.**

Assessments

You will be responsible for taking online quizzes and exams through eCampus as homework. Quizzes and exams **are due BEFORE CLASS begins** on the date specified on the syllabus. You are welcome to use your textbook and notes from class while taking quizzes and exams, but these are the only approved resources. Please adhere to the Aggie Honor Code and refrain from using any unauthorized materials or assistance from classmates. Tests and quizzes will cover the assigned reading as well as lecture material.

Many students want an A because it reflects a high level of academic competence and accomplishment; it means you put a lot of work into mastering the material of the class. However, some students are subject to external pressures brought on by student visas, scholarships, requirements for a major, academic probation, or graduation, and desperately “need” to achieve a certain grade. The onus for receiving the grade you need is on you, the student who earns it. YOU determine what your grade will be (not me) based on your performance over the course of the semester and the work you put into the class. If there’s a lot riding on your grade, start working NOW to achieve the grade you want. Pay attention in class and avoid distractions, do your homework, take notes (beyond just what’s written on the slides), regularly review your notes, form a study group, start studying for tests early rather than procrastinating, begin your assignments early and put effort into them, and feel free to come see

me in office hours or schedule an appointment if need any help or if you just want to make sure you're on the right track. At the end of every semester, panicked students contact me when there is frankly nothing I can do to change their grade, because the student already earned that grade based on their performance over the course of the semester. Not only is it unfair to your peers to ask for special consideration at the end of the semester, it's also unnecessary if you've been proactive about your work and grades throughout the course. If you contact me at the end of the semester to ask for any sort of change to your grade, I will not answer your email except to cut and paste this paragraph into my reply.

Extra Credit

Students have the opportunity to attend one live theatrical production over the course of the semester for extra credit. Upon seeing the production, in its entirety, you will submit a 1-2 page critical analysis of the production. See eCampus for specific instructions.

Team-based Learning

In this course we will be using a Team-based Learning (TBL) structure. TBL is a form of small-group learning that emphasizes student preparation out of class and application of knowledge in class. Students will be organized strategically into diverse teams that work together throughout the semester. Students will prepare by reading prior to class and completing an online quiz. In class assignments will allow each group to demonstrate application of course concepts from the reading assignments.

Attendance

The best way to be successful in this course is to attend class. If you miss class due to an excused absence you will be provided an opportunity to make up any missed assignments or quizzes. **I will not accept late assignments without an excused absence.** If you do miss a class for any reason you are responsible for obtaining notes and information regarding assignments from your classmates.

As per University policy, a student must notify me in writing (an acknowledged e-mail is acceptable) prior to the absence if possible, but no later than the end of the second working day after the absence in order to be excused. In most cases I will ask for documentation substantiating the reason for the absence. You must provide the documentation within one week of the last day of absence in order to be excused. [University rules related to excused and unexcused absences](#)

Classroom Atmosphere

Please respect your fellow students and the instructor by arriving to class on time and prepared. Please silence your cell phones before class begins. For more information regarding classroom behavior please see [Student Rule 21](#).

In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. It will be our collective responsibility to make sure that our classroom interaction is respectful and supportive of the views, experiences and expertise of others at all times. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or

viewpoints. I reserve the right to remove anyone from class who acts in a rude or disruptive manner.

[The Texas A&M University Commitment to Diversity Statement](#)

The theatre is a safe place for dangerous ideas. Theatre, like all art, provides an opportunity for us to challenge ourselves, and to investigate personal and social values. At times, this can be difficult. We will, at times, view, read, and discuss subject matter that you find personally upsetting or disturbing. First, I encourage you to enter this course with an open mind and to use this course as one method of exploring your personal beliefs and values. Learning about other world views need not affect your core values. This course offers an intellectual challenge, but not an affront to your core values. If anything, those values might be affirmed.

Additionally, I understand (especially as a theatre artist) the power of images. I also strongly believe in self care. I cannot possibly know the personal history of each student, but I am sensitive that each of you will have topics and images that you cannot discuss in class. I also expect that, as you are all adults, you have the agency to close your eyes, look away, or even leave the room if you need to. There may be videos you choose not to watch, or discussions you choose to leave. You are an adult and I respect your right to protect your mental health. If you do choose not to complete an assignment, I encourage you to speak to me, in person, during office hours.

Academic Integrity

Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

[Aggie Honor System Office](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

If you believe that you have a disability that is affecting your level of participation or success in this course, please do not hesitate to see me. I will be happy to help you find the resources you need to help you succeed in this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is an outline of the course topics and test dates. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed to enhance learning opportunities. If any changes are necessary, they will be clearly communicated in advance.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Assessment Due</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
	<i>What we will discuss in class today?</i>	<i>What should I complete before today's class?</i>	<i>What should I complete after today's class?</i>
1/17	Course Introduction and Syllabus		Read Syllabus Thoroughly Read Chapter 1
1/19	Introduction to Theatre		Watch <i>Storytelling - Something Just Out of Sight</i>
1/24	The Role of the Audience	<i>Storytelling</i> Quiz	Read Chapter 2
1/26	Early Theatres: Greek and Roman	Syllabus Quiz	Read <i>Dulcitius</i>
1/31	Early Theatres: Medieval	<i>Dulcitius</i> Quiz	
2/2	Early Theatres: Asian		
2/7	Renaissance Theatre	Exam 1	Read Chapter 14
2/9	English Restoration Theatre		Watch <i>The Country Wife</i>
2/14	English Restoration Theatre	<i>The Country Wife</i> Quiz	
2/16	Theatres of the Eighteenth Century		Watch <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>
2/21	Theatres of the Eighteenth Century	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> Quiz	
2/23	Theatres from 1800-1875		
2/28	Realism and Naturalism	Exam 2	Read <i>A Doll's House</i>
3/2	Realism and Naturalism	<i>A Doll's House</i> Quiz	
3/7	Departures from Realism		Watch <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
3/9	Departures from Realism	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> Quiz	
3/14	Spring Break		
3/16	Spring Break		
3/21	Eclectics and Popular Theatre		Watch <i>Oklahoma!</i>

3/23	Eclectics and Popular Theatre	<i>Oklahoma!</i> Quiz	
3/28	Globalization in Theatre		
3/30	Performance Art	Exam 3	Watch <i>The Artist is Present</i>
4/4	Performance Art	<i>The Artist is Present</i> Quiz	
4/6	Postmodernism		Watch Mabou Mines <i>DollHouse</i>
4/11	Postmodernism	Mabou Mines <i>DollHouse</i> Quiz	
4/13	Diverse Theatre in the United States		Read <i>TopDog/Underdog</i>
4/18	Diverse Theatre in the United States	<i>TopDog/Underdog</i> Quiz	
4/20	Contemporary Global Theatre		Read <i>God of Carnage</i>
4/25	Contemporary Global Theatre	<i>God of Carnage</i> Quiz	
4/27	Theatre of the Oppressed	Theatre History Paper Due	
5/4	Exam 4 Due at 12:30 PM		

Campus Resources

I would like to introduce you to some useful campus resources which may enhance your learning experience. Items are listed by topic/content area, and corresponding resource units are hyperlinked.

Study Skills: [Student Learning Center](#), [Student Counseling Service](#)

Tutoring: [Student Learning Center](#), [University Writing Center](#), [Department of Multicultural Services](#)

Career/Major: [Student Counseling Service](#), [Career Center](#)

Crisis: [Student Assistance Services](#)