

# THEATRE APPRECIATION - FALL 2017

Credits: 3 (GDR HU1; GEP Arts)

**Course:** THEA 105, Sec. 001

**Classroom:** NFAC 221

**Class Time:** T&R 11-12:15

**My Office:** NFAC 211

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeffrey Stephens

**Phone:** 715 346-4706

**Email:** [jstephen@uwsp.edu](mailto:jstephen@uwsp.edu)

**Office Hours:** M & W 10:00-12:00; R 1:00-2:30; F 10:00-12:00; other times by appt.;

**NO OFFICE HOURS ON TUESDAYS**

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**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Stephens, Jeffrey. *Theatre Appreciation*. This is an anthology of plays that accompanies the course. (**Purchase**). You will be able to sell back this book at end of term. (I receive no money via your purchase of this text.)

Wilson, Edwin. *The Theatre Experience*. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. 2011. (**Rental**)

### ADDITIONAL COST:

You are required to attend one **or** both of the following UWSP theatrical productions IF you wish to earn extra credit:

*Student Body* Oct. 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21 @ 7:30 pm & Sunday, Oct. 15 @ 2:00 pm

*Spamalot* Nov. 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18 @ 7:30 pm & Sunday, Nov. 12 @ 2:00 pm

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

UWSP students must acquire tickets IN PERSON at University Information & Tickets (in the Dreyfus University Center-Concourse Level) **and bring their UWSP ID in order to receive discounted tickets. You must see one of these shows—no substitutions. Cost is \$4.50 per ticket with ID. From the Box Office Website: “Pick up a FREE ticket (with your ID) from University Information & Tickets the day of the event IF there are tickets remaining.”**

**Non-UWSP guests must pay full price if tickets are available.**

TICKET INFORMATION: 715-346-4100

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This ARTS course explores western dramatic literature, theatrical and performance history, and the ways in which plays are rendered on the stage. We are also interested in the “business” side of cultural production, that is, we are interested in how much it costs to stage various plays and how money is made and lost in the legitimate theatre. The dramas we will read and see examine a variety of issues (as do our lecture topics); thus, some contain ideas, values, and language that may not reflect your own. Think carefully about your enrollment in this course if you are offended by such exploration. Note that there are other courses on campus which satisfy the arts requirement on your degree sheet. Courses in the arts and humanities ask that you approach the subject matter with maturity and a healthy respect for other cultures and belief systems.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** *Generally*, the student enrolled in THEA 105 will derive a foundation for more discriminating play-going through analysis of major dramatic forms and masterworks, consideration of the methods and techniques of the principal theatre artists, and through surveying both international and American theatre and drama. *Specifically*, upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. **Identify, date, and describe** the characteristics of the major eras of western dramatic writing and theatre production including the ancient Greek, the Shakespearean, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the modern European and American, and the postmodern;
2. **Write a critical analysis** of a live theatre production following instructions provided in lecture that answer the following questions posed by drama critics: “What is being attempted?” and “Was the attempt worthwhile?”;
3. **Describe** the duties among members of the standard production team such as lighting designer, costume designer, director, actor, and dramaturg;
4. **Answer** questions on each exam that address the vocabulary of the theatre to prove comprehension;
5. **Delineate** the differences between a literary approach to appreciating theatre and a performative one.

### GEP PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The General Education Program (GEP) seeks to develop these qualities of global citizenship in four distinct ways. After completing the general education curriculum, students will:

- Demonstrate critical thinking, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the physical, social, and cultural worlds as well as the methods by which this knowledge is produced.
- Recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- Apply their knowledge and skills, working in interdisciplinary ways to solve problems.

**TEACHING/LEARNING STYLE:** Lecture, discussion, demonstration, theatre attendance, reading assigned plays and material from the textbook. We will make use of excerpts from several media. If you miss class on the day an excerpt from a production is shown, you will be unable to answer certain questions on the exams. I use D2L only to post grades—you will find no lecture notes or media for this class on D2L.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Beginning the second week of class, a seating chart will be used. You may choose your seat prior to the second week of classes. I often do not take attendance, but I use the seating chart when I do. Your presence on such days will translate into extra credit. **It will be tempting for you to occasionally miss lectures as it's a long walk from the dorms, it's too cold, etc., but understand that not everything covered in lecture is found in your textbook.**

**If I must stop a lecture to ask a student to be quiet, I will deduct 20 points from your total point score at the end of the term. A second interruption will result in a letter grade drop after points are totaled at the end of the term. I will also contact your academic advisor.**

**MISSED IN-CLASS WORK:** Students absent for university-sponsored activities or mandatory military service may make up work missed due to such absence with no penalty. **Proof of involvement in an officially sanctioned university event must be provided BEFORE the event occurs.** Exams must be taken on the date listed in the syllabus. If you miss an exam and I allow you to take the exam at a later date (within a day after the originally scheduled exam), the maximum number of points you will earn is 75% of the maximum you might have earned if you had taken the exam when scheduled.

**EXAMS & GRADING:** Four exams during the term (FORMAT: multiple choice); one final exam same format. **THE FINAL EXAM IS COMPREHENSIVE.**

Five exams @ 100 pts. each	=	500 pts.
One final exam @ 100 pts.	=	<u>100 pts.</u>
<b>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</b>	=	<b>600 pts.</b>

**GRADING SCALE:** There are 600 points possible. 540-600 = A/A-; 480-539 = B/B+/B-; 420-479 = C/C+/C-; 360-419 = D/D+/D-; 0-359 = F. UWSP uses + (plus) and - (minus) marks; therefore, within each 60 point range, final letter grades will include a "+" marking for the top third, no marking for the middle third, and a - (minus) marking for the bottom third. Example: 380 points total = D; 490 points total = B-; 545 points total = A-. Grades of A+ and F+ do not exist on this scale; therefore, if you receive 599 points, for example, you will receive an "A" for the course, not an "A+".

**PLAGIARISM:** This course defines "plagiarism" as using undocumented source material as your own thought on any formal writing assignment. If you have plagiarized a review, or have "cheated" on an exam, you will receive zero points for that assignment and be referred to your advisor and/or academic dean for appropriate disciplinary action. **LIFTING INFORMATION FROM A WEBSITE WITHOUT CREDITING THAT WEBSITE AND/OR THE AUTHOR IS PLAGIARISM.**

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** "(. . .) Individuals with disabilities have a right to request accommodations and individuals will receive appropriate accommodations they need to fully participate in or benefit from the University's programs, services and activities in a non-discriminatory, integrated setting. Pursuant to the System policy, each institution maintains an Office of Disability Services (located in Rm. 609 in the library/ph. 346-3365) as a resource for students, faculty, and staff. Students may document a disability and request auxiliary aids from this office."

**CLASS ROOM SECURITY:** See UWSP Risk Management Department's website.

**Schedule (subject to change): Always check your email daily before class**

Please note that the "DUE" column below means due on that day for discussion.  
 "Text" refers to chapters in the Wilson textbook. All plays (in italics) are in the anthology. *How I Learned to Drive* is also available via D2L.

**DUE TO ONGOING TECHNICAL ISSUES IN NFAC 221, lecture dates marked with an asterisk "\*" will be online—i.e., they will be sent to you as an attachment with instructions—rather than presented "face-to-face" in class until further notice. I will keep you posted if additional changes are made.**

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
T Sept. 5 R Sept. 7	Introduction/Textbook/Plays Greek Tragedy	Text: 3-12; 16; 27-37 Text: 46-51; 164-169; 198-202; <i>Oedipus the King</i>
T Sept. 12 R Sept. 14	Greek Tragedy (continued) History of Acting	Text: 155-164; <i>Oedipus the King</i> (continued) Text: 93-108
T Sept. 19 R Sept. 21	Stage Acting Today Continued + Non-Tragic Genres Dramatic Form & Conventions	Text: 108-121 Text: 197; 201-218
T Sept. 26 R Sept. 28	<b>FIRST EXAM</b> Shakespearean Tragedy	<i>Othello</i> acts I, II
T Oct. 3 R Oct. 5*	Continued Continued	<i>Othello</i> acts III, IV <i>Othello</i> act V
T Oct. 10 R Oct. 12	Broadway & Off-Broadway Scenery & Design	Text: 52-57 Text: 229-251; 261-269
T Oct. 17 R Oct. 19	<b>SECOND EXAM</b> Rise of Stage Realism	Text: 37-43; 187-188; <i>A Doll House</i>
T Oct. 24* R Oct. 26	Continued from 10/19 Theatre/Stage Spaces	Text: 67-86
T Oct. 31 R Nov. 2	The Director & the Producer <b>THIRD EXAM</b>	Text: 123-148
T Nov. 7* R Nov. 9	Dance + The Avant-Garde Formal Experiments Musical Theatre	<i>How I Learned to Drive</i> (E-reserve/D2L); 166; 358-362 Text: 182-183; 301-310
T Nov. 14 R Nov. 16	Musical Theatre Musical Theatre (continued)	Text: 310-317
T Nov. 21 R Nov. 23	<b>FOURTH EXAM</b> <b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
T Nov. 28 R Nov. 30*	Off-Off Broadway + Performance Art + Postmodernism Devised Theatre Continued from 11/28	Text: 181; 343-350; 362-365
T Dec. 5 R Dec. 7	Theatre of Diversity African-American Experience Continued from 12/5	Text: 350-357
T Dec. 12 R Dec. 14	<b>FIFTH EXAM</b> <b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES: TBA</b>	

**FINAL EXAM:** Thursday, Dec. 21 (10:15 am – 12:15 pm)  
Students **MUST** take the final at the scheduled time.  
The final exam is comprehensive.