

THEA 352/Theatre History Renaissance to Romanticism

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Stephens

Meetings: M&W 3-4:15; NFAC 290 **Term:** Spring 2017

Office: NFAC 211

Office Hours: M & W 9:30-11:30; R 2:00-4:00; other times by appt.

Phone: 346-4706/346-4429 **Credits:** Three (3) GDR HUM 1; GEP Arts

Course Description

This course surveys western theatre history from the Italian Renaissance to the mid-19th century (US, UK, Continental), i.e., c. 1500 to 1850.

Required Texts:

Brockett, Oscar G. and Franklin J. Hildy. *History of the Theatre*. 10th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2008.
(Rental)

Plays:

The Country Wife on line at

<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/vorderbruegg/winthropweb/current/scripts/CountryWife--acting%20version--revised.pdf>

*King Lear** on e-reserve

*Phedre** on line at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1977/1977-h/1977-h.htm>

The Robbers on line at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/6782/6782-h/6782-h.htm>

*Tartuffe** on line at <http://stackassociates.com/ACC/Tartuffe.pdf>

*The Tempest** (Hard copy provided by instructor.)

Twelfth Night (Hard copy provided by instructor.)

Plays marked with an asterisk () are REQUIRED reading. Each student will also be assigned one of the other plays on the list above to read (and discuss in class).

“History as a discipline is not a collection of dates and events. It is an investigation of political, social, and cultural tensions, transitions, and developments in the past. Historians construct narratives about the past based on archaeological and historical sources that require careful critical analysis. They must avoid modern biases or assumptions when reading and interpreting historical evidence (primary sources).”

–Dr. Camarin Porter (Dept. of History)

Learning/Course Outcomes: Students will become familiar with basic knowledge of styles and techniques of performance, theatre architecture, decoration, and audience taste and composition from c. 1500 to approximately c. 1850 in the European and American theatre. We will examine dramatic theory as well. Emphasis will be placed on the interrelationship between theatre and culture, and particularly upon the English Restoration, the Neoclassical period in France, the 18th century German theatre, and the rise of realism in the 19th century. *Specifically*, having completed the course, students will be able to:

- 1) conduct library and internet research to discover and use factual and theoretical materials of the early Renaissance, Baroque, 18th, and 19th century theatre practice;
- 2) articulate verbally the differences and similarities among the above periods of theatre history using assigned play scripts as well as readings on theatre architecture, acting, scenic design, and criticism (both contemporary and period);
- 3) explain the origin of contemporary theatre practice in the theatre of the past;
- 4) classify and evaluate the legitimacy of types of evidence in the study of theatre history;
- 5) identify the artistic, philosophic, religious, and sociological bases of theatre production;
- 6) formulate incisive questions in the study of theatre history; and
- 7) EXPRESS EACH OF THE ABOVE IN EFFECTIVE WRITING.

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.

Style of Teaching: Lecture, discussion, student presentation.

Exams, Papers, Presentations: Five exams will incorporate identification and/or matching and/or true & false and/or short essay. I will assign students plays on which they will present a short introduction and stage history in class. There are several in-class writing assignments that will be peer reviewed and revised outside of class.

An asterisk “*” on the syllabus below indicates that there will be a writing assignment or quiz on that day.

Grading: A total of 600 points is possible. Five exams including final are worth 100 points each. In-class writings and quizzes are worth a total of 100 points. **SCALE:** 540 - 600 points = A; 480 - 539 points = B; 420 - 479 points = C; 360 - 419 points = D; 0-359 points = F. Grades of A+ and F+ do not exist; therefore, if you receive 599 points, for example, you will receive an “A” for the course, not an “A+”.

Attendance/Participation: It is the student’s responsibility to attend class. The following scale applies: 2 absences, no penalty; 3 or more absences, course grade dropped one letter. **If you are absent on the day of a writing assignment or quiz, you will receive a zero.** Lowest quiz/writing assignment grades are NOT dropped.

Plagiarism: This course defines “plagiarism” as using documented source material as your own thought, particularly attempts to “cut and paste” information from the web into a paper. If I suspect plagiarism, you will receive zero points for that assignment. **Should circumstances warrant, you will then be referred to your advisor and/or dean for appropriate disciplinary action.**

Disability Services and Assistive Technology: “It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin System that no otherwise qualified individual is denied access to or participation in any program or activity offered by the University because of a disability. 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 and Assistive Technology (located on the sixth floor of 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.”

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule (subject to change):

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DUE</u>
M, Jan. 23	Introduction: End of Medieval Drama Review “historiography”	Text: 101-104; 645-648
W, Jan. 25	Italian Dramatic Theory	Text: 154-159 + Review <i>Poetics</i>
M, Jan. 30	Italian Dramatic Theory The Neoclassical Ideal	Outline of <i>Poetics</i> : http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmamus/poetics.html
W, Feb. 1	Italian Dramatic Forms Italian Theatre Architecture	Text: 159-165 Text: 165-178
M, Feb. 6	Continued	
W, Feb. 8	University Wits & English Renaissance	Text: 105-108*

M, Feb. 13	FIRST EXAM	
W, Feb. 15	Shakespeare & The Globe & The Tudors	Text: 108-115
M, Feb. 20	Continued	<i>King Lear</i> *(writing)
W, Feb. 22	Continued	
M, Feb. 27	Continued	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
W, Mar. 1	<i>In Search of Shakespeare</i>	
M, Mar. 6	Elizabethan Theatre Production	Text: 115-129
W, Mar. 8	Continued	<i>The Tempest</i> * (writing)
M, Mar. 13	The Jacobean (Early Stuart) Stage	
W, Mar. 15	SECOND EXAM	
M, Mar. 20	SPRING BREAK	
W, Mar. 22	SPRING BREAK	
M, Mar. 27	Stuart Court Theatre + Spanish Golden Age	Text: 129-142
W, Mar. 29	French Neoclassicism	Text: 179-186; 192-194; <i>Tartuffe</i>
M, Apr. 3	Continued	<i>Phèdre</i> * (In-class writing)
W, Apr. 5	Continued	
M, Apr. 10	English Restoration	Text: 201-208*; <i>The Country Wife</i>
	Comedy of Manners	
W, Apr. 12	Continued+ Pepys' <i>Diary</i>	
M, Apr. 17	THIRD EXAM	
W, Apr. 19	English 18 th Century Theatre	Text: 208-223
M, Apr. 24	French and Italian 18 th Century Theatre	Text: 229-233; 239-251
W, Apr. 26	German <i>Sturm und Drang</i>	Text: 252-253; 258-265* + <i>The Robbers</i>
M, May 1	Introduction to 19 th Century Theatre & Romanticism	Text: 267-269; 278-279
W, May 3	Well-Made Plays and Melodrama + Trends in Antebellum 19 th Century American Theatre	Text: 279-288; 298-309; 314-322
M, May 8	FOURTH EXAM	
W, May 10	Review for Final Exam	

FINAL EXAM:
Wednesday, May 17, 10:15-12:15
All students must take the final exam at this time.