

THTR 201: Theatre History I Master Syllabus

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Goldfarb, Alvin & Wilson, Edwin. *Living Theatre: A History of Theatre*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2011.

NOTE: Other readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. 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 10 minute summary of their research to the entire class.

B. Quizzes

Quizzes will be given periodically during the semester to gauge reading and comprehension of analytical concepts. You will be given prior notice before each quiz.

C. 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.

D. Participation

Theatre is a collaborative process in which each student must participate. Class discussions are central to student understanding, and to the development of oral and written communication skills. Your participation grade will be based upon your active involvement in daily discussions. Daily records will be kept to indicate your individual involvement in discussions. As a general rule: Always bring a topic or question to class.

E. Play Response Paper

Students will turn in one play response during the course of the semester. This papers will be in response to a professional production associated with an era discussed in the class that the student saw during the term. **NO HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** A show of the student's choosing, with the permission of the instructor may be chosen. The response will be due by the last day of class. The papers should focus on the concepts we have learned and discussed during the class. Papers should be no shorter than four (4) pages in length, double-spaced.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Grading Breakdown

Research Paper and Presentation	20%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	10%
Play Response Paper	10%

A Note on Grading

Written assignments will be accepted for full credit only on the date they are due. Ten points will be deducted from your assignment grade for each day it is late.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Attendance and active participation are important facets of this course. Therefore, attendance is mandatory.

You may accrue two absences without penalty to your grade. More than two absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by 1/3, or three points for each additional absence accrued.

Please be on time to each class.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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 program.

As students in this class, **you are required to attend all departmental theatre productions throughout the semester.**

OTHER CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Cell phones, pagers, voice recorders, cameras and other electronic or recording devices of any kind should **NEVER BE USED** during class. Please turn them to the off position before each class begins.

Food, gum and drink are not permitted in class. Water is allowable.

Report to class on time. This means that you are ready for class to begin at the designated start time. Lateness will be noted.

Promote teamwork and comradery among all students.

Take personal responsibility for yourself and your work.

Be supportive of all work done in class, and offer constructive feedback to fellow students when asked.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week 1	Introductions
Week 2	Ancient Egypt. Ancient Greece.
Week 3	Quiz 1.
Week 4	Ancient Rome.
Week 5	Quiz 2. Early Asian Theatre.
Week 6	European Medieval Theatre.
Week 7	Midterm Exam.
Week 8	Italian Renaissance.
Week 9	English Renaissance.
Week 10	Quiz 3.
Week 11	The Spanish Golden Age. French Neoclassical Theatre.
Week 12	English Restoration.
Week 13	Quiz 4.
Week 14	Research Presentations.
Week 15	Theatre of the 18 th Century.
Week 16	Quiz 5.
Week 17	Course Review.

Week18

Final Exam.

**Proposal to add THTR 201 to the permanent catalog of courses in the
Theatre Major
Department of Music and Theatre**

1) Course title, catalog description and credit hours

THTR 201 – Theatre History I (3 Credits)

Catalog 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.

2) Prerequisites and co-requisites:

THTR100 – Introduction to Theatre
ENG101 or ENG115

3) Course will fulfill:

This course will fulfill three credits of the theatre core curriculum within the Theatre Major. The course may also be taken as a Fine Arts Requirement, or as an elective within the Theatre Minor and Musical Theatre Minor.

4) Description of course including its content, goals/objectives, alignment with program learning outcomes and alignment with Xavier Learning Outcomes:

a. Content:

See attached syllabus.

b. Course Objectives (COs):

1. Students will understand the role theatre has played, throughout history, in society.
2. Students will analyze the impact of historical trends in design, directing and acting to the modern day theatre.
3. Students will develop broad-based knowledge of the history of theatre.
4. Students will articulate the major trends in theatre throughout history, and relate them to current productions and ideas in theatre.
5. 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.

c. Course Objective alignment with Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

PLO1: The ability to think conceptually and critically about text, performance, and production.

Supported by all course objectives. Assessed through all course assignments and requirements.

PLO2: An understanding of playwriting and production processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the way these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural forces.

Supported by all course objectives. Assessed through all course assignments and requirements.

PLO3: An acquaintance with a wide selection of theatre repertory including the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.

Supported by all course objectives. Assessed through reading multiple scripts, all exams, and quizzes.

PLO4: The ability to develop and defend informed judgments about theatre.

Supported by all course objectives. Assessed through research paper and presentation.

PLO6: An understanding of procedures and approaches for realizing a variety of theatrical styles.

Supported by all course objectives. Assessed through all course assignments and requirements.

d. Alignment with Xavier Learning Outcomes:

Please see attached curriculum map from *Taskstream*.

5) Rationale for the course:

For students of theatre, it is crucial that they have an understanding, and an appreciation for, the traditions in theatre that have preceded us. It is often this knowledge that shapes our own thoughts and ideas about contemporary production and art in the theatre. This also helps us to answer the question of where we fit and relate in the larger realm of the theatre, and also of the world. Not only will this course aid in the development of a wealth of information regarding the past trends and practices in theatre, but it will also help form the basis for research techniques that will aid the theatre student in forming their own approaches and production techniques in the future.

6) Proposed texts and other resources:

See attached syllabus.

7) Proposed assignments and assessments:

a. Assignments

See attached syllabus.

b. Grading System

See attached syllabus.

8) Departmental support:

The Department of Music and Theatre fully supports the creation of a sequence of Theatre History courses as part of the broad-based theatre training necessary for theatre majors.

9) Major requirements of the course:

See attached syllabus.