

Theatre History II

Instructor: Eric Ruffin

Class Meeting: T/TH 2:00PM-3:25PM

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre History II examines theatrical movements from Antiquity through the 19th century. The last style to be explored will be realism. This course will survey world theatre forms, styles, techniques, and traditions, with scholarly research and application in the classroom. Research and lab work will be conducted by the students. Students will also be required to read and analyze plays from different eras and cultures to examine the role of performance in various civilizations.

This examination will place the theatre contributions from these periods in historical context. Art and artists do not exist in a vacuum. How socio/political and cultural movements inform theatre will be the ongoing discussion. Critical analysis of assigned material will be required by all in daily discussions. Lectures and readings will address the aesthetics of theatre; its art and craft, including its artists and practitioners while acknowledging its relationship to the society that produces it.

This course supports the following national and dcps standards for arts education:

Content Standard 8: Understanding context by analyzing the role of theatre, film, television, and electronic media in the past and present.

Content Standard 6: Comparing and integrating art forms by analyzing traditional theatre, dance, music, and visual arts, and new forms.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of important ideas, people, places and methods
2. Identify various theatrical styles and the cultures that produced them
3. Articulate similarities and differences between different periods and cultures
4. Delineate a rough timeline for the development of western and world theatre
5. Engage in oral and written discussion of plays
6. Identify concepts and practices that continue in modern theatre
7. Synthesize and apply theatrical conventions and practices to the production of a theatrical performance.
8. Utilize the tools necessary for dissecting and understanding a script.

III. Grading

You are required to attend class regularly, take part in discussions read assigned material write reviews and participate in group projects. Five quizzes, a midterm and a final will also be given.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Be present and on time for class
2. Be well prepared for class activities and discussions (inability to participate in discussion constitutes an absence)
3. Conduct research
4. Attend and review two (2) live theatre performances
5. Group projects that culminate in a final report and/or presentation
6. Five (5) Quizzes and Two (2) Exams

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Exams	-- 30%
Presentations	-- 30%
Critiques/Play reviews	-- 15%
Quizzes	--15%
Participation	-- 10%

VI. GRADING SCALE

1. A -- Excellent	100-90
2. B -- Good	89-80
3. C -- Fair	79-70
4. D -- Passing	69-60
5. F -- Fail	59 and below

This course is a survey of information essential to an understanding of theatre history. As with any survey course, the content must remain flexible if it is to address the specific needs of the students, therefore, the syllabus and course schedule are subject to change at any time. These changes are at the sole discretion of the instructor, and whenever possible will be made in writing. Further, every attempt is made to include department productions as works in the syllabus.

The instructor will choose chapters from a variety of sources. Students may be asked to photocopy or purchase some plays or collections.

(If the play you see is produced in the DC metro area, the theatre company must be listed on the website below))

- ★ for professional shows, reference www.helenhayes.org for a listing of area theatre companies and show openings and closings
 - ★ also check "The Guide to the Lively Arts" in the **Washington Post**
 - ★ check out www.cultural-alliance.org/tickets for half price ticket info in DC
- **note!!!** *Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me at the beginning of the semester or within two weeks of the diagnosis. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts (DESA) is committed to*

providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should also contact the dean of students.

- ★ Please note!!! *Each student, as an active participant in the DESA community, is responsible for performing academic work that holds to the highest standards of honesty. Acts of cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit such acts are all forms of academic dishonesty. Acts of academic dishonesty could result in a disciplinary action (the DESA Student Code of Conduct permits an instructor to assign either an "F" on an assignment or an "F" in the course for academic dishonesty) that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. Consult the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook for further information.*