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Theater History 1

THE 4110

MWF 1:00 to 1:50
Graham Center Room 289

Professor Michael Yawney
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30 (WPAC 139A)
Phone: (305) 348-7545
Email: michael.yawney@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will survey the works, production techniques, and styles of theater from ancient times through 1800, focusing on the cultural elements that shaped the work. A secondary focus will be on how the works have been interpreted by other global cultures since their initial creation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through lectures, readings, and discussion students will attain an understanding of the cultural values, philosophic and religious beliefs, and the physical realities of each era that has shaped Western theater from the Greeks to the English Restoration as well as selected non-Western theaters in that same period. Students will apply this understanding of factors outside of the play text that shape meaning to deepen their artistic insight into these works.

GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES

- Students will interpret theatrical works referencing the cultural context that gave rise to these works.
- Students will interpret work from outside their culture based on a multi-perspective analysis of the plays in question.
- Students will describe the benefits in using dramatic texts to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfrank. *Living Theatre: History of Theatre*, 5th Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006. (ISBN: 0073514128) [4th or 6th edition may also be used]

Gainor, J. Ellen, and B. Garner Jr. and Martin Puchner, editors. *The Norton Anthology of Drama, Volume One*. New York: Norton, 2009. (ISBN: 0393974707 or 0393932818)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Quizzes: Every class will begin with a short quiz.

Research Paper: You will write a research paper on a play NOT on the class syllabus. This paper will refer to the play to the time in which it was written and to today. You will examine how the play was understood at the time it was written by relating it to its physical production, audience, philosophical context, political meaning, etc.==

I want you to do well with this assignment, so please, discuss it with me. I might be able to suggest plays and other research materials that might be useful.

--The paper must be fully footnoted and include full citations, MLA style.

--The paper must be 8 to 11 pages long. (The citations are NOT included in the page count!)

- The last week of September, you will be given a handout on outlining research. Outlines of research topics must be submitted by October 16 at the latest.
- The research paper is due December 6 at 5:00 pm.

3. Exam. The final exam will be a take home exam due in Prof. Yawney's mailbox on December 13 at 5:00 pm.

4. Class Participation. You are expected to participate in class discussions. For this reason, attendance is vital! Being on time is key! It is also important that you take the risk of putting your thoughts out there. Take the risk!

GRADING

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| Quizzes | 15% |
| Research Paper | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Class Participation (including presentations) | 25% |

Note: You must pass in each of the four evaluation areas to pass the course. That is to say if you fail at one of the four (Quizzes, Paper, Exam, Participation) you will fail the entire course—even if you are doing A work in the other three areas.

*****IMPORTANT NOTES*****

Each student is allowed one unexcused absence per semester. Any further unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered by a half point (i.e. B to C). Absences are excused only in very serious circumstances and require documentation within a week of the absence.

If you accumulate four or more unexcused absences you will automatically fail the course. If you acquire four or more absences for a documented medical or personal emergency you may be required to repeat the course. You should also be aware that if you engage in any unprofessional or unsafe behavior during class you may be asked to leave the classroom. This will count as an unexcused absence. If you leave a class early this can be counted as an absence if the instructor desires.

Tardiness is unacceptable. If you arrive after attendance has been taken you will be marked as being late. Three "lates" equal one unexcused absence. If you are absent or tardy for a class you are responsible for the material and information covered in the class that day. You should also be aware that if an assignment is due and the entire class is unprepared the instructor has the right to cancel the class session that day and may give each student an unexcused absence if the situation warrants such action.

No make-up or extension will be given unless there is a hospital stay or death that prevents you from meeting your obligation.

If for some reason, you need to miss class arrange to get notes from a classmate.

The following schedule and the assignments listed are subject to change.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Introduction

M 8/26 Introduction

Greek Theater

W 8/82 Reading: Excerpts from **The Poetics** (handout)
Topic: The Poetics

F 8/30 Reading: **Living Theatre 25-61**
Topic: Greek Theater Production

W 9/4 Topic: Greek Theater Production (continued)

F 9/6 Reading: **Oedipus the King** (Oedipus Rex)
Topic: Oedipus and Aristotle

M 9/9 Reading: **The Bacchae**
Topic: The Changing Language of Greek Theater

W 9/11 Reading: **Lysistrata**
Topic: Greek Comedy

F 9/13 Topic: Greek Comedy (continued)

M 9/16 Topic: Ancient Greek Theater--Today

Roman Theater

W 9/18 Reading: **Living Theatre 83**
Topic: Roman Theater Production

F 9/20 Reading: **Pseudolus**
Topic: Roman Comedy

M 9/23 Reading: **Agamemnon**
Topic: Roman Tragedy

W 9/25 Research Paper Guidelines

Medieval Theater

F 9/27 Reading: **Living Theatre 114-142**
Topic: Theater in the Middle Ages

M 9/30 Reading: **Second Shepard's Play**
Topic: Cycle Plays

W 10/2 Reading: **Everyman**
Topic: Moralities

Italian Renaissance Theater

F 10/4 Reading: **Living Theatre 143-175**
Topic: Dramatic Theory

M 10/7 Topic: Scenography

W 10/9 Topic: Commedia dell'Arte

English Renaissance Theater

F 10/11 Reading: **Living Theatre 176-215**
Topic: English Renaissance Drama—What We Know and What We Guess

M 10/14 Reading: **The Shoemaker's Holiday**
Topic: The Structure of English Renaissance Drama

W 10/16 RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE DUE
Topic: Production at the Globe and Blackfriars

F 10/18 Reading: **Duchess of Malfi**
Topic: Jacobean Drama

M 10/21 Topic: English Renaissance Theater--Today

Sanskrit Theater

W 10/23 Topic: Four Principles

F 10/25 Topic: Rasa

Spanish Golden Age Theater

M 10/28 Reading: **Living Theatre 216-233**
Topic: Spanish Golden Age Theater in Performance

W 10/30 Reading: **Fuente Ovejuna**
Topic: Lope de Vega

F 11/1 Topic: Spanish Golden Age Genres

French Neoclassic Theater

F 11/4 Reading: **Living Theatre 234-256**
Topic: The Background of French Neoclassic Theater

W 11/6 Reading: **Le Cid Summary** (to be handed out in class)
Topic: The Scandal of Le Cid

F 11/8 Reading: **Tartuffe**
Topic: Moliere

W 11/13 Reading: **Phaedra**
 Topic: Neoclassic Dramatic Theory Triumphs

Noh Theater

F 11/15 Reading: **TBA**
 Topic: The Dramaturgy of Noh

M 11/18 Topic: Performer Training for Noh and Its Legacy

W 11/20 Topic: Noh as a Living Form

Restoration Theater

F 11/22 Reading: **Living Theatre 257-287**
 Topic: Restoration Filth

M 11/25 Reading: **The Country Wife**
 Topic: Production in the Restoration

W 11/27 Topic: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare

M 12/2 Topic: Theater and Indigenous Cultures

W 12/4 Topic: TBA

F 12/6 RESEARCH PAPER DUE
 Final Exam Distributed

F 12/13 FINAL EXAM DUE

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students show respect for the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.