

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Dr. Tom Robson

Class Location: Shilling 318

Office Hours: Monday 1-4pm, Tuesday 10-11am, Thursday 10-11am

Course Description: An integrated study of theatre history, theory, and dramatic literature from the beginnings of theatre to the 19th Century. Readings will include theatre history texts, plays from important periods in theatre history, and primary documents of theatre theory such as Aristotle's *Poetics*. A central assignment will be a dramaturgical project on a pre-modern dramatic text.

Course Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course should:

- Recall significant events in theatre history.
- Demonstrate comprehension of dramatic texts.
- Interpret theatrical history through a personal lens.
- Evaluate scholarly texts in the discipline of theatre history.
- Formulate their own independent conclusions about theatrical history based in research.

Student Well-Being: The well-being of students is of primary importance. If you are facing any challenges related to your physical or mental health, or obstacles like food or housing insecurity, please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss ways we can put you in the best possible position to succeed.

Inclusivity: Every student in this classroom, regardless of personal history or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. Your experiences are valued and important, and you should feel free to share them as they become relevant to our class. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all members of a group.

In this classroom you have the right to determine your own identity. You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish, and for that name to be pronounced correctly. You have the right to be referred to by whatever pronoun you wish. You have the right to adjust those things at any point in your education.

If you find that there are aspects of course instruction, subject matter, or classroom environment that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Content Advisory: Some of the material that we will encounter this semester deals with difficult subject matter, including violence and sexual assault. If you have concerns about content, please speak with me privately. I should be able to provide warnings, context, and guidance for engaging with the material.

Required Text: *The Norton Anthology of Drama, 2nd Edition*.

Incompletes/Extensions: No incompletes or extensions will be granted except for verified medical or other real emergencies. Theatre production duties are not considered emergencies.

Email Communication: Students in this class are expected to check their Millikin email at least twice per day, once at the beginning of the day and once at the end of it. In the event I need to send you important information, I will use email to do so. Additionally, I check my email regularly and will make every effort to respond to your emails as I receive them. Please, however, allow 24 hours for a response.

Grading Breakdown (1000 points total):

Research Paper 300 points total (point breakdown in Research Paper Assignment Sheet)

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Homework	200 points total (4 assignments, 50 points each)
Forum Posts	100 points total (10 assignments, 10 points each)
Group Project	50 points
Self-Assessment	50 points
Participation	100 points

Notes on Grading:

1. I will not discuss grades over email or in the classroom, due to privacy concerns. If you have a question about a grade, please schedule an appointment with me during my office hours.
2. I will always post grades to the Moodle gradebook as I complete them. You may always check your standing in the class by accessing the Moodle gradebook.

Research Paper: All students in this class will complete a research paper of 1,800-2,400 words (approximately 6-8 pages). This paper asks students to develop, articulate, and prove a thesis (argument) related to some aspect of theatre history covered by this course (origins-1800). You may write on any topic you like, so long as it satisfies that requirement. Further information is found in the Research Paper Assignment Sheet. The final draft of this paper is due on Thursday, February 27, with an option to revise by Thursday, April 23.

Exams: There will be two written exams over the course of this semester. Each exam will cover only the material discussed during that portion of the course; the exams are not cumulative.

First Exam: Thursday, March 5

Second Exam: Finals Week, time TBD

Homework: Several times this semester you will be assigned scholarly/critical essays related to texts or periods that we are discussing. Part of the job of the historian is reading discipline-specific research, understanding it, and evaluating it. These assignments will ask you to practice and refine those skills. Essays that require these homework assignments are marked “HW” on your syllabus. Further information is found in the Homework Assignments Sheet.

Forum Posts: Ten times this semester you will need to complete short homework assignments through our course’s Moodle discussion forum. Eight of these will be responses to reading assignments, and the other two will be activities designed to help you and your classmates prepare for exams. Each post is worth a possible 10 points. These posts must be submitted by 8am the day the reading is due.

For the eight reading responses you will find a specific prompt in the discussion forum. You should respond specifically to that prompt, and your post should be a minimum of 150 words. Readings that require a Moodle response are marked “FP” on your syllabus.

For the two exam preparation responses, you will be asked to submit five possible exam review questions. I will pull from these questions in conducting an in-class exam review session.

Group Project: Students will work in groups to prepare further background information on one of the plays we will read excerpts of in class. This should take the form of a two-page digital “handout” that will be distributed to the full class one class period prior to discussion of the play. Further information is found in the Play Excerpt Project Assignment Sheet.

Self-Assessment: Students will complete a self-assessment reflection activity roughly halfway through the semester, analyzing their work to that point of the semester and articulating strategies for the second half of the semester.

Late Work: As stated above, forum posts must be submitted by 8am the day the reading is due. All other assignments must be submitted by the start of class the day they are due. Late work will not receive credit. All paper submissions will occur electronically through TurnItIn.com. When submitting your work to TurnItIn, be 100%

certain that the upload has been successful. If the upload is successful you should receive a receipt from TurnItIn. If you do not receive a receipt, your upload has not been completed. **Please be advised:** Issues with computers will not be accepted as excuses for failure to submit assignments on time. Back up your work and plan ahead.

Missed Assessments: Students must be in class on the days of exams and presentations. Make-up opportunities will not be provided for these in-class assessments except in the case of serious medical situations. Any student expecting to be absent from class on the day of an exam or presentation must communicate this effort to me a minimum of two weeks prior to the exam. It is at my discretion whether to permit you to take an exam early, and such permission should not be assumed.

Attendance/Punctuality: Students in this class are permitted three absences for the semester, including illness. Each additional absence above three will result in a 1/3 letter grade deduction from your final course grade. Any student accruing SEVEN total absences over the course of the semester will automatically fail the course. Additionally, students are expected to arrive to class on time. Two instances of lateness to class will be considered the equivalent of one absence.

Participation: I expect that students will engage with the material we are discussing in class by asking questions and contributing comments. Be an active participant in your own learning.

Intellectual Property: I consider course lectures, discussions, and organization to be my intellectual property. Each class represents many hours of research and preparation on my part. Due to this, I *do not* grant my consent for your course notes to be distributed beyond the members of our group. You are free to share with other students in the class, but no course notes may be posted online in any forum.

Grading Scale:

A: 940-1000	A-: 900-939		
B+: 870-879	B: 830-869	B-: 800-829	
C+: 770-779	C: 730-769	C-: 700-729	
D+: 670-679	D: 630-669	D-: 600-629	F: 0-599

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Readings marked with [N] can be found in your Norton Anthology. All others can be found on Moodle.

T 1/21	Course Overview	
Th 1/23	Historiography	Magelssen & Bial, <i>Theater Historiography</i> 1-3; Elam, "Making History" (FP)
(F 1/24)		Paper Topic List Due and Meeting Scheduled by 5pm
T 1/28	Pre-Literate Theatre: Africa Yoruban Performance & Ritual	Nellhaus et al, "From Oral to Literate Performance," 25-43
Th 1/30	Pre-Literate Theatre: South America Mayan Performance & Ritual	Nellhaus et al, "From Oral to Literate Performance," 43-50
T 2/4	Ancient Greece Origins, Architecture, Tragedy	<i>Agamemnon</i> (FP) [N]
Th 2/6	Ancient Greece Tragedy	Case, "Classic Drag: The Greek Creation of Female Parts" (HW)
T 2/11	Ancient Greece Comedy, Hellenistic Era	<i>Lysistrata</i> , pages 343-347 (Kinesias-Myrrhine Episode) [N]
Th 2/13	Ancient Rome Comedy, Tragedy	Excerpt from <i>The Brothers Menaechmi</i>
T 2/18	Ancient Rome Architecture, Spectacles	Johnson, "Unspeakable Histories: Terror, Spectacle, and Genocidal Memory" (HW); Tertullian, "On the Spectacles"
Th 2/20	Ancient India Sanskrit Drama Kutiyattam	Sorgenfrei et al, "Theatre in Early Literate Societies," 81-90
T 2/25	Ancient India Ramlila, Kathakali	Excerpt from <i>Shakuntala</i> Zarrilli et al, "Playful Gods," 130-135
Th 2/27	PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS	Papers Due
T 3/3	Exam Review	Exam Prep (FP)
Th 3/5	EXAM (Tom at MATC)	
T 3/10	SPRING BREAK	
Th 3/12	SPRING BREAK	
T 3/17	European Medieval Theatre Hrotsvit, Liturgical Drama	<i>Dulcitius</i> (FP) [N]
Th 3/19	European Medieval Theatre Cycle Plays	<i>The York Play of the Crucifixion</i> (FP); "The Stage Magic of Valenciennes"
(F 3/20)		Optional: Intent to Revise Paper Due
T 3/24	Italy Neoclassicism	Mid-semester Reflections Due
Th 3/26	Italy Commedia dell'Arte	McGill, "Women and Performance" (HW); <i>The Portrait</i>
T 3/31	Early Modern England	

Th 4/2	Architecture, Company Management Early Modern England Marlowe	Act One of <i>Edward II</i> ; Bray, "Homosexuality and the Signs Of Male Friendship in Elizabethan England" (HW)
T 4/7	Early Modern England Shakespeare	<i>Twelfth Night</i> (FP) [N]
Th 4/9	Early Modern England Jacobean & Caroline Era	Act Four of <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> , pages 1,046-1,061 [N]
T 4/14	NO CLASS --- ADVISING DAY	
Th 4/16	Classical France French Classicism, Moliere	Act Three of <i>Tartuffe</i> , pages 1,254-1,263 [N]
T 4/21	Restoration & 18 th C England	Acts One and Two of <i>The Rover</i> , pages 1,379-1,405 [N]
Th 4/23	Spanish Colonizers	<i>Loa for The Divine Narcissus</i> (FP) [N] Optional: Revised Papers Due
T 4/28	Japan Noh	<i>Kurozuka</i> Zeami, "On the Art of Noh Drama" (FP)
Th 4/30	Japan Bunraku	<i>The Love Suicides at Sonezaki</i> (FP) [N]
T 5/5	Japan Kabuki	
Th 5/7	Exam Review	Exam Prep (FP)

FINALS WEEK EXAM

Please be advised that I do not have any say in the creation of the final exam schedule; that power rests with the Registrar. You should not make any summer travel plans until the Registrar releases the final exam schedule.