Theatre 3316: The History of the Theatre:
English Restoration through Contemporary Theatre (2015)
MWF 9-9:50 a.m. FAB 205

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Office Hours M-F 2-3:30 p.m. or by arrangement

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

I. Instructional Materials:

A) Required Textbook: *Living Theatre: A History* by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfard, 6th Edition, 2012.
B) Class Lectures/Demonstrations/Presentations
C) Supplemental Reading Materials
D) Outside Research
E) SRSU Theatre Program productions

II. Course Overview:

This course is designed to aid the student in the understanding of theatre history from the English Restoration through contemporary times.

The student will investigate the including historical periods, playwrights, plays, social and political conditions and acting styles of each period of theatrical history.

The student will have the opportunity to critically analyze the impact of social, economic, and political influences on theatre during the various periods of theatre history from 1660 -2013.

Also the student will be able to discern the important theatre genres/styles, works, and artists during the last 400 years.

Utilizing assigned research and analytical rubrics, students will work individually and cooperatively in small groups to develop class projects and presentations.

Additionally, the student will utilize acquired knowledge to analyze and critically assess three Sul Ross theatrical productions/events.

The course assignments, discussions, and other instructional materials/modules will be supplemented through materials in Blackboard and/or the Web. All quizzes and tests will be administered exclusively through Blackboard.

III. Course Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should be able to

- Critically understand the origins, progression, and the development of theatre;
- Assess the significance of the works within their time period, the oeuvre of the playwright, and the innovations, if any, of the play to world of dramatic literature;
- Creatively present a multimedia/dimensional analysis of an assigned research project; and
- Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works.

IV. Program Learning Outcomes:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

2. the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance;

3. the ability to analyze scripts;
4. the ability work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production; and
5. the ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

6. the ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design; and
7. the ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production

Additionally the student will be able to**:**

8. describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event;
9. describe the close link between theatre and religion;
10. name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production;
11. have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre;
12. describe the uniqueness of the theatre art;
13. understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production;
14. identify a variety of theatre spaces;
15. know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre; and
16. demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting or design in the areas of set, sound, or make-up.

V. Course Requirements:

A. Three examinations, including the final exam, will be given. The tests will cover material from the text, lectures, demonstrations, reading and viewing materials, guest lectures, and SRSU theatrical productions. All examinations will be given in Blackboard 9.

B. Announced and unannounced quizzes will be given during the semester. All quizzes will be given in Blackboard 9.

C. The student will be required to present/participate in two class projects i.e.: a Turn-of-the-20th Century Social, and a 60's Happening. Small groups of students will each present an "active" portion of the projects, which may include cutting(s) from plays, a demonstration of theatrical styles of the period, reenactments of period playwrights or religious/ political/social figures, or samples of non-theatrical forms of entertainment.

D. The student will present 4 short oral/written reports over an assigned research topic.

E. Two written analytical/discussion papers on the SRSU theatrical productions will be required. The student will be required to critique two of the SRSU spring theatrical productions and to submit a two page, typewritten critical assessment of the play, including discussion of genre, the MDQ, the protagonist, the antagonist, and use of Aristotlean elements. **All critiques are due the first class period after the close of each play.**

F. The student will be required to create a digital theatrical history time-line to include all of the major plays, playwrights, theatrical events and discoveries/inventions, plus the major social, political and religious events, and major discoveries and inventions, which helped define the theatre of the period. The timeline will begin with the English Restoration and continue through contemporary theatre. The project will be due by 4 pm, Wednesday, May 6.

G. Participation in all class activities, discussions, demonstrations, etc. is required.

VI. Criteria For Grade Evaluation:

A. Each student will be graded upon the basis of the assignment's guidelines and the completeness and effectiveness of the presentation/assignment.

B. Breakdown of grading percentages is as follows:

1. Small Group Presentations (2 at 5%)	10%
2. Timeline of Theatre History	8%
3. Examinations (3 @ 11%)	33%
4. Quizzes (Lowest grade dropped)	21%
5. Research Presentations (4 @ 2%)	8%
6. Play critiques (2 @ 4%)	8%
7. Participation & Attendance	12%

C. Grading will be on a 100 points system as follows:

93-100+ = A 84-92 = B 75-83= C 66-74 = D Below 66 = F

D. **Examinations and quizzes must be completed by the designated day and time**,

E. Assignments that are late will be **penalized 25 points** per class period.

F. Since the final grade is dependent upon the total number of accumulated points, it is important that all work be completed and turned in.

G. Extra credit: (0-100 points) Extra credit may be given for participation/involvement in any of this semester's SRSU theatrical productions. Points will be awarded on the basis of the quality and the level of participation. Extra credit will not be given if the student is enrolled in Theatre Production Workshop or any of the Theatre Workshop courses, unless the requirements for that class have already been fulfilled.

VII. Special Needs:

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call 432-837-8203. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the third class day.

VIII. Final Examination Schedule: Final exam must be completed in Blackboard before **Tuesday, May 13, 10:15 a.m.**

IX. Class Courtesy: For the courtesy of all students, **all cell phones and pagers must be turned off** prior to the beginning of the class. Emergency personnel may seek a special dispensation from the professor.

X. Syllabus: A copy of this syllabus will appear on the Department of Fine Arts and Communication's web page.

XI. Tentative Semester Class Schedule:

Week of January 19		Introduction to Course and Semester Goals; English Restoration theatre
Week of January 26		English Restoration theatre; quiz18th Century theatre
Week of February 2		18th Century theatre; quiz; Theatre from 1800-75
Week of February 9		Theatre from 1800-75; quiz; **Test #1**
Week of February 16		Theatre from 1875-1915; quiz
Week of February 23		Theatre from 1875-1915
Week of March 2		Theatre from 1915-45; quiz
Week of March 9		Theatre from 1945-75; quiz
March 14-22	**Spring Break (no classes)**	
Week of March 23		Prep for Turn of the Century Social; Graduate lectures
Week of March 30		Turn of the Century Social; Theatre from 1945-75
Week of April 6		Theatre from 1945-75; quiz; **Test #2;** Contemporary Theatre: The Americas
Week of April 13		Contemporary Theatre: The Americas; quiz; 60's Happening prep
Week of April 20		Contemporary Global Theatre
Week of April 27		Contemporary Theatre; quiz
Week of May 4		60's Happening; Final prep
Tuesday, May 13	10:15 a.m.	Final: **Test #3 must be completed**

<u>SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule</u>:

Thur & Sat, March 5 & 7	7 pm	Studio Theatre	MicroCinema Festival
Fri – Fri, March 28, 30-31, April 1-4	8:15 pm	Marshall Auditorium	Performances of *Sweeney Todd*
Sunday, March 29	2 pm	Marshall Auditorium	Matinee of *Sweeney Todd*
Sunday, March 29	6:30 pm	Studio Theatre	Auditions for Night of One Acts
Fri – Sun, April 24-26	7 pm	Studio Theatre	A Night of One Acts performances