

THEATRE 3302:001 The History of the Theatre, Part I:
Greek Theatre through Renaissance Theatre Syllabus (11746; 2016)

MW 11-12:15 p.m.; FAB 207

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Office Hours (via Skype or by cell phone) M & W 8-11 am (CDT/CST) 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 Goldfarb, 6th Ed., 2012.
(Will be used for Theatre History II as well)
- 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 the beginnings of theatre history through the European Renaissance.

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 the beginnings of theatre through Renaissance theatre.

Also the student will be able to discern the important theatre genres/styles, works, and artists during the first two millennia of theatre.

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 two Sul Ross theatrical productions.

The course assignments, discussions, and other instructional materials/modules will be supplemented through materials in Blackboard.

III. Course Primary Learning 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. Student Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to demonstrate:

1. knowledge of the various theatrical genres, styles, and works created throughout Theatre History; (knowledge)
2. the ability to analyze scripts; (attitudes or dispositions)

3. the ability to analyze all technical aspects of a theatrical production; (attitudes or dispositions)
4. have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre and be able to apply them to productions; (knowledge and skills)
5. identify a variety of theatre spaces developed throughout theatre history; (knowledge)
6. knowledge of the names and works associated with key figures (playwrights, directors, designers, performers) in the theatre history; (knowledge) and
7. understanding of the causal link between theatre and religious, social, political, geographic and economic influences (knowledge, attitudes or dispositions).

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 exams will be given in Blackboard 9.
- B. Announced 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 recreation of the City Dionysia theatre festival and a Renaissance fair). 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 short, written discussion papers on the SRSU theatrical productions will be required. The student will be required to critique two of the SRSU fall 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 earliest forms of theatre and continue through the Renaissance. The project will be due by **4 pm CDT, Friday, December 2.**
- 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. **Assignments must be completed by the due date/time** or prior to the scheduled date if the student is absent for a legitimate SRSU activity, or the first class day that the student is back from a doctor verified illness (doctor’s note must be submitted).
- 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 Practicum or any theatre course 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 by **Tuesday, December 6, 12:15 p.m. CST.**

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. Academic Honesty: “The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.” --Excerpt from the Student Handbook

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

XII. Tentative Semester Class Schedule:

Week of August 22	Course overview; syllabus; Origins of Theatre;
Week of August 29	Greek Theatre; quiz;
Week of September 5	Roman Theatre; quiz;
Week of September 12	City Dionysia Festival prep;
Week of September 19	Early Asian Theatre; quiz;
Week of September 26	Early Asian Theatre; City Dionysia Festival;
Week of October 3	Test #1; Test Recap; Medieval Theatre; quiz;
Week of October 10	Medieval Theatre; Italian Renaissance Theatre; quiz;
Week of October 17	<u>Midterm</u> Renaissance Fair Prep;
Week of October 24	Italian Renaissance Theatre; quiz;
Week of October 31	Test #2; Test Recap; English Renaissance Theatre; Critical Assessment of <i>The Christians</i> due
Week of November 7	English Renaissance Theatre; quiz;
Week of November 14	Renaissance Fair; Spanish Golden Age Theatre; quiz;
Tuesday, November 21	French Neoclassical Theatre; Critical Assessment of <i>Maricela de la Luz Lights the World</i> due
Week of November 28	French Neoclassical Theatre; quiz; prep for final
Friday, December 2	4 p.m. CST Timeline Due in FAB 106
Tuesday, December 6	12:15 p.m. CST Final Examination deadline

SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule:

August 23 & 24	6 pm	Studio Theatre (FAB 105)	Open Auditions for <i>Maricela de la Luz Lights the World</i>
	6 pm	TV Theatre (FAB 205)	Open Auditions for <i>The Christians</i>
October 21-22, 28-29	8:15 pm	Studio Theatre (FAB 105)	Performances of <i>The Christians</i>
October 23 & 30	2 pm	Studio Theatre (FAB 105)	Matinees of <i>The Christians</i>
November 13, 14, 20, 21	7 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Performances of <i>Maricela de la Luz Lights the World</i>
November 15 & 22	2 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Matinees of <i>Maricela de la Luz Lights the World</i>