

**Theatre 5303:001 The History of the Theatre II:
English Restoration through Contemporary Theatre (2017)
MWF 10-10:50 a.m. FAB 207**

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Office Hours (via Skype or by cell phone) M & W 8-10 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 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.

The graduate student will research and post a PowerPoint presentation on a selected theatrical topic.

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 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 examinations 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 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 8 short oral/written reports over an assigned research topic.
- E. The graduate student will research a selected theatrical topic and post a PowerPoint presentation into Blackboard.
- F. 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.**
- G. 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.
- H. 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 (8 @ 1%)	8%
6. Play critiques (2 @ 4%)	8%
7. Graduate Research Presentation	10%
7. Participation & Attendance	2%
- 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 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 in Blackboard before **Monday, May 8, midnight (CDT).**

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 January 17		Introduction to Course and Semester Goals; English Restoration theatre
Week of January 30		English Restoration theatre; quiz; 18 th Century theatre
Week of February 6		18 th Century theatre; quiz; Theatre from 1800-75
Week of February 24		Theatre from 1800-75; quiz; Test #1 (English Restoration – 1875)
Week of February 20		Theatre from 1875-1915
Week of February 27		Theatre from 1875-1915; quiz
Week of March 6	Midterm	Theatre from 1915-45; quiz
Week of March 13		Spring Break (no classes)
Week of March 20		Prep for Turn of the Century Social; Graduate lectures
Week of March 27		Turn of the Century Social; Theatre from 1945-75
Week of April 3		Theatre from 1945-75; quiz; Test #2 1 (1875-1975); Contemporary Theatre: The Americas
Week of April 10		Contemporary Theatre: The Americas; 60’s Happening Prep; Cabaret critique due
Week of April 17		Contemporary Global Theatre
Week of April 24		Contemporary Global Theatre
Week of May 1		60’s Happening; Final prep; One Acts Critiques due; Timeline due (Friday, May 5)
Tuesday, May 8	Midnight	Final: Test #3 must be completed

SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule:

March 25 & 31, April 1, 7 & 8	8:15 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Performances of <i>Cabaret</i>
March 26, April 2 & 9	2 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Matinees of <i>Cabaret</i>
To Be Announced		Studio Theatre (FAB)	Auditions for the One Acts
April 28 & 29	6 pm	Studio Theatre (FAB)	Performances of One Acts