



Directed Study

THEATRE HISTORY: Styles **The Ancient World to the 19c**

THEA 3993

T / R 4:30 - 6:00pm, JMAC 112 / 107

<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>	<u>Office / Office Hrs</u>
Dr. Pamyla Stiehl	Pamyla.Stiehl@du.edu 303-871-2817 Cell: 303-709-8720	JMAC 112 T / R 2:00-4:00, by appt.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to examine the primary aspects of theatrical performance and conventions from the Ancient Greeks through the Early Modern Theatre (19c). Our primary sources will be plays written during representative eras of Theatre History, which will then be supplemented by discussion and independently viewed online galleries detailing production practices and innovations. We'll trace the history/context and development of theater architecture, theatrical design concepts and technology, acting styles, "genres" and playwriting, as *reflections of and influences on the larger socio-cultural milieu*. While the main concentration is on Western theatre (i.e. Europe), attention will be given to non-Western traditions whenever possible and appropriate.

TEXTS

- *The Norton Anthology of Drama: Shorter Edition* [req.]
- Periodic Readings on "Electronic (e)Reserves" [req.]
- Visual Galleries for Eras/Styles [on DU CourseMedia]
- Periodic Video Assignments ["streaming" on DU CourseMedia]

COURSE FORMAT AND EVALUATION

Our meeting time will be spent in thoughtful discussion and exploration of your reading/viewing materials, in addition to presentations. **More than one excused absence or two tardies** will lower your final grade by a full letter (e.g., a B+ becomes a C+). Absences will only be excused for documented illnesses, family emergencies, and religious observances. Please inform me in advance of any anticipated absences or late arrivals. In addition, **one unexcused absence** will lower your final grade by a full letter (but I don't anticipate this being an issue).

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

1) **Two Summative Presentations (approx 15 minutes; 10-point grade scale for each):** In lieu of quizzes, you will be asked to present a creative summary of syllabus segments. You may use any desired format to map and highlight the areas covered, with an emphasis on **comparison/contrast**. ** Please also note that some of these segments will include material/areas that have been necessarily designated for "independent study" (IS), which means that you are required to read the material but, due to time limitations, we will not discuss it in our meetings. However, you will still need to include the material/area of study in your presentation. ** Overall, please compare, contrast, and connect the salient dots whenever/wherever possible. Do your best to engage with the material using your own voice/style. And expect questions! We will decide the presentation rotation in our first meeting (thus, you can prepare in advance for your turn).

2) **"Then and Now" Performance Response (2-3 pages; 10-point grade scale; due 10/27):** You must attend a contemporary theatrical performance and evaluate it with regards to a historical era addressed in this course, i.e. "then and now" [see guidelines on Blackboard for details].

3) **Invented Dialogues (2 pages; 10-point grade scale; due 11/10):** You must prepare an illustrative conversation and/or argument between two of the figures (either real or fictional) addressed in this course, taking into account their personalities, philosophies, life histories, contributions, aesthetics, and surrounding historical/contextual milieus. Characters do not need to be contemporaries (more fun if they are not). You may use either or both of these levels of invention: 1) select and weave quotes from primary sources and/or 2) invent reasonable quotes that fit characters and context. If using primary-source quotes, you do not need MLA citations or a bibliography.

4) **Final Essay: A Conceptualized Work of Theatre (4-5 pages; 10-point grade scale):** With this paper, you will further explore a specific Theatre History period, style, person, or play/production and then use applied knowledge and research to conceptualize a modern theatrical production [see guidelines on Blackboard for details].

No late presentations or papers will be accepted. Final essay should be formatted according to the MLA Handbook (6th ed. or later).

ON-LINE RESOURCES

This course includes the DU CourseMedia Management System, through which you may access hundreds of high-resolution images of the places and players we are studying this quarter, as well as all the assigned movies. Just go to: <https://coursemedia.du.edu/>. I've also included a website link on Blackboard.

Most images are accompanied by a brief discursive note as well as an internet link, so be sure to look ahead at upcoming topics and take advantage of this incredible digital repository!

You may also find the following sites to be of interest (for this course or future reference):

- <http://www.theatrehistory.com> {links to various cultures and eras}
- <http://www.vi-theatre.com> {general links to numerous theatre sites}
- <http://www.videoccasions-nw.com/history/jack.html> {links to various sites}
- <http://www.theatron.co.uk> -- click on "gallery" link {computer reconstructions of Greek, Roman & Tudor theaters}
- <http://www.theatron.org> {theatre history in Europe}
- http://www.glencoe.com/theatre/Timeline/timeline_content.html {timeline}
- http://webhost.bridgew.edu/adirks/ald/courses/hist/hist_Amer.htm {America}

GRADING – all assignments are graded on 10-pt scale

Participation, Attendance, Preparedness	20%
2 Summative Presentations (15 min.)	25%
“Then and Now” Performance Response (2-3 pg)	15%
Invented Dialogue (2-pg.)	15%
Final Essay (3-5 pg.)	25%

DU's WRITING AND RESEARCH CENTERS

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing and Research Center's services, benefiting writers at all skill levels. Here, you can ask about everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. The Penrose Library Research Center answers research questions seven days a week by phone, email, in-person, and chat. One-on-one research consultations are also available on a drop-in basis or by appointment. Consultations can help you at any stage of the research process, from refining your topic, to finding books and articles, to creating a bibliography with RefWorks. To ask a question or make an appointment at the **Research Center**, call 303-871-2905 or go to research-help@du.edu. For information on the **Writing Program** or to make an appointment, call them at 303-871-7431 or visit www.du.edu/writing/wrc.htm.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Assignments should be completed before the class session for which they're listed. Page numbers refer to the *Norton Anthology of Drama: Shorter Ed.*

T Sept. 13	Origins of Theatre and the “Anti-Theatrical Prejudice” *research the story of Osiris and the <i>Abydos Passion Play</i> for class
R Sept. 15	The Greek Theatre: Excerpt from Aristotle's <i>The Poetics</i> (eReserves)
T Sept. 20	Greek Tragedy: Euripides' <i>The Bacchae</i> (3-12, 169-214)
R Sept. 22	Greek Comedy: Aristophanes' <i>The Frogs</i> (137-140 + DU CourseMedia)
T Sept. 27	Roman “Sport”: Overview of Roman Theatre (12-16) Ridley Scott's <i>Gladiator</i> (DU CourseMedia)
R Sept. 29	Roman Theatre cont. “Roman Dramatists” (eReserves)
T Oct. 4	PRESENTATION 1 (Abydos, Greeks and Romans) Medieval Drama: Hrosvitha's <i>Dulcitius</i> (25-31, 215-225) <i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i> (eReserves)
R Oct. 6	The Italian Renaissance: Commedia Scenarios (31-38 + eReserves)

T Oct. 11	Classical Asian Theatre (Chinese/Japanese Emphasis) Guan Hanqing's <i>Snow in Midsummer</i> (16-22, 227-247) Zeami's <i>Atsumori</i> (22-25, 249-264)
R Oct. 13	PRESENTATION 2 (Medieval, Asian and Italian Renaissance) Elizabethan Theatre: Overview of Shakespeare & After (38-42, 333-335) John Madden's <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> (DUCM) Jonson's <i>The Masque of Blackness</i> (eReserves)
T Oct. 18	Elizabethan / Shakespeare: Trevor Nunn's <i>Twelfth Night</i> (339-344 + DUCM)
R Oct. 20	French Neoclassicism: Moliere's <i>Tartuffe</i> (45-48, 509-566)
T Oct. 25	Restoration Comedy: Overview (48-50) Richard Eyre's <i>Stage Beauty</i> (DUCM) Excerpt from Wycherley's <i>Country Wife</i> (eRes)
R Oct. 27	PRESENTATION 3 (Elizabethan, Restoration and French Neoclassicism) 18c Theatre: Overview (50-54) Excerpt of Lillo's <i>The London Merchant</i> (eReserves) Excerpt of Beaumarchais' <i>Marriage of Figaro</i> (eReserves)
T Nov. 1	18c Theatre: American Beginnings Excerpt of Tyler's <i>The Contrast</i> (eReserves)
R Nov. 3	19c Theatre: Romanticism and Melodrama (54-57) Act 2 of Marlowe's <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (291-295, 306-315) Excerpt of Goethe's <i>Faust, Part 1</i> (eReserves) ✓ Invented Dialogues Due
T Nov. 8	19c Theatre: Vaudeville, Minstrelsy, Circus (58-60)
R Nov. 10	19c Theatre: The Birth of the Musical Clips from Mike Leigh's <i>Topsy-Turvy</i> (DUCM) ✓ "Then and Now" Production Response Paper Due
T Nov. 15	Catch-up discussion
R Nov. 17	PRESENTATION 4 (18c and 19c Theatre) Realism and Naturalism (60-62, 711-715) Ibsen's <i>A Doll House</i> (eReserves)
TBA (Final Exam Period)	The Early Modern Theatre Shaw's <i>Pygmalion</i> (869-936) ✓ Final Essay Due

ACCESSING “E-RESERVE” ARTICLES

You can access the articles and excerpts assigned for this course that are not in your anthology through Blackboard as follows: **(Please note that you can no longer go through WebCentral to access your e-reserves as in the past!)**

- ✓ Go to <http://blackboard.du.edu/> (and bookmark it!)
- ✓ Log on using your DU ID# (username) and Password
- ✓ Click on this class (THEA 3992) under “My Courses” on the right
- ✓ Click on the “Course Reserves” link in the box on the upper left
- ✓ You may be asked to agree to a © agreement the first time you sign on
- ✓ Scroll down to the title or author you want to view or print as a PDF!

ACCESSING VISUAL GALLERIES AND “STREAMING VIDEOS”

You can access the visual galleries used in class as well as each of the videos assigned for discussion through the following:

- Go to <https://coursemedia.du.edu/>
- Log in using your DU ID# and passcode
- You may be asked to agree to a © agreement the first time you sign on
- Find the “DS Theatre History: Styles” heading and galleries
- Click on the gallery box you wish to enter (e.g. “Movies and Clips”)
- Click on the thumbnail of the image or video you wish to see (e.g. “Frogs”)
- N.B. To watch streaming videos, you will need an Ethernet or broadband connection.