

SYLLABUS
Drama 3200: Foundations of Theatre History
Professor: C.B. Davis
Fall 2005
Mon.-Friday 10:10-11:00

Course Description

This course surveys the history of European theatre from its origins up to the 18th century. We will examine theatre as an institution that both reflects historical moments and participates in the forming of social values and ideas.

Objectives

To learn to recognize theatrical forms and styles of production across cultures and centuries; to develop skills necessary to think and write critically and clearly about theatre; to become familiar with theories and terminology applicable to discussions on theatre.

Required texts

Living Theatre, Wilson and Goldfarb (LT)

**Harcourt Brace Anthology* (Worthen). *All of the assigned plays are in the anthology, but you can use any edition of the plays available to you. I will also supply handouts for the non-dramatic assignments from Worthen.

Requirements and Grading:

Class participation (*discussion and questions*): 15% (NOTE: *Any more than three excused absences will result in your grade being lowered by one third!*)

Quizzes: 60% (there will be Six Quizzes)

Note that there will be no Mid-term, just another Quiz

Group Presentation 20%. (Separate handout will describe assignment)

Final examination: (take-home essay, 3-5 pages) 20%

Schedule (approximate)

WEEK ONE (First FULL week : August 22-26)

Lecture and Discussion

WEEK TWO (August 29-September2)

Monday: Lecture on "Origins." Read LT (25-37)

Wed. Read *Agammemnon* Aeschylus

Friday: Read *Oedipus Rex* Sophocles

WEEK THREE (Sept . 5-9) Monday holiday

Monday: Read excerpt from Aristotle's *Poetics*, Worthen, (95-104)

LT (38-53) on Greek theatre

Wednesday *Medea* and *essay*, "Classical Drag." Case in Worthen (136-142)

Friday: *Lysistrata* Aristophanes

WEEK FOUR (Sept.12-16)

Monday: Hellenistic Theatre-Read LT (53-59);

Wednesday: Roman Theater - LT (61-81)

Friday: GROUP PRESENTATION (Greek and Roman)

WEEK FIVE (Sept. 26-30)

Monday: QUIZ#1 Greek and Roman

Wednesday: Background and Liturgical Drama. Read LT (83-92).
and Vernacular Religious Drama. Read LT (92-103)

Friday: Miracle and Morality Plays. Read LT (104ff)

WEEK SIX (Oct, 3-7)

Monday: *Everyman* (Worthen 256-266).

Wednesday: **GROUP PRESENTATION (Medieval)**

Friday: QUIZ #2 Medieval

WEEK SEVEN (Oct. 10-13)

Monday: : Italian Drama LT (141-149) and Criticism LT (154-159)

Wednesday: Italian theatre architecture and scenic techniques. LT (159-168)

Friday: Commedia dell'Arte LT (149-153). and "Aside" (Worthen 402-405)

WEEK EIGHT (OCT. 17-21)

Monday: **GROUP PRESENTATION (Italian Renaissance)**

Wednesday: QUIZ#3 Italian Renaissance

Friday: Intro to English Renaissance Theatre. LT (171-177)

WEEK NINE (Oct.24-28) Fall Break, No class Friday

Monday: Shakespeare and Elizabethan Theatre Practice. LT (178-198)

Wednesday: *Hamlet*

WEEK TEN (Oct. 31- Nov. 4)

Monday: *Hamlet* continued.

Weendesday Read Jacobean and Caroline Drama, etc. in LT (198-205)

Fri.: **GROUP PRESENTATION (English renaissance)**

WEEK ELEVEN (Nov. 7-11)

Monday: QUIZ#4 English Renaissance

Wednesday: Spanish Golden Age Theatre. Read LT (207-223)

Friday: French Theatre 16th and 17th centuries. Read LT. (225-234),

WEEK TWELVE (Nov. 14-18)

Monday: Theatre Production in France. Read LT (235-245)

Wednesday: *Tartuffe* by Moliere (Worthen)

Friday: **GROUP PRESENTATION (French Neoclassical and Spanish Golden Age)**

WEEK THIRTEEN (Nov. 21-25) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY W-F

Monday: QUIZ #5 on French Neoclassical, Spanish Golden Age

WEEK FOURTEEN (Nov. 28-Dec. 2)

Read Restoration England in LT (239-275)

Wednesday: *The Rover* by Aphra Behn

Friday:, **GROUP PRESENTATION: Restoration**

WEEK FIFTEEN (Last week of Class)

Monday: QUIZ #6 Restoration England

Wednesday: Distribute Final paper assignments, Discuss paper topics