

Drama 3210: Foundations of Theatre History
Professor: C.B. Davis
Spring 2003
Mon., Wed., Fri., 11:15-12:05 am
Fine Arts Bldg. Rm. 201

This course will survey the history of theatrical endeavors from the eighteenth century to the late twentieth. We will examine theatre as an institution that both reflects historical moments and participates in the forming of social values and ideas. Through class discussion, this exploration of the theatrical past will help to disclose the "filters" of our own influences and tastes with respect to dramatic art, popular entertainment and representation in general. Lectures will contextualize the plays we read within the theatrical practice of their times, but also as cultural artifacts with histories of their own.

Required texts

Living Theatre , Wilson and Goldfarb, Harcourt Brace Anthology, ed. Worthen.

History of the Theatre, 9th edition, Brockett. In general you should bring the text from which we have read each day to class, although a solution may be to bring your notes from reading it along with Xeroxes of visual evidence and timelines.

Requirements and Grading:

Class participation (attendance, contribution and discussion): 15%
(NOTE: Any more than three unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered by one third!)

Quizzes: 20% (5, short answer, multiple choice, matching, based on readings and lectures.)

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

Mid-Term examination, (short answer and essay): 20%

Final examination: (essay, 3-5 pages) 25%

Jan. 20-24

Lecture and discussion on Historiography and Theatre Studies

Readings: Various handouts.

Jan. 27-31

Mon. LIVING THEATER Chapter 10, 277-310. This is an overview of the eighteenth century and will make the reading in Brockett more accessible.

Wed. Lecture supplement to readings

Fri. Study group activity

Feb. 3-7- (18th century)

Mon. Lecture and discussion

For Wed: Brockett, Chapter 10, "Italy and France to 1800." We will divide the

sections between study groups for review. (I'll explain in class).

For Friday: Study group activity

Feb. 10-14

For Mon.: Brockett, Chapter 11

For Wed: "Northern and Eastern European Theatre to 1800."

Friday Brockett, Chapter 12, "Continental European Theatre in the Early Nineteenth Century."

Feb. 17-21

For Mon.: Review for Quiz 18th century material,

For Wed. QUIZ and for Friday, LIVING THEATER Chapter 11, 313-352 (19th c, 1800-1875) Short lecture/intro to next section. (Aside) Melodrama (In Worthen 568).

For Fri.. Brockett, Chapter 13, "English-Language theatre in the Early Nineteenth century.

Feb. 24-28

For Mon. LIVING THEATER Chapter 12, THEATER FROM 1875 to 1915 (354-376)

Read Ibsen, A Doll 's House (Worthen) complete by Wednesday.

For Wed. Brockett, Chapter 16, "Beginnings of Modern Realism"

For Fri. Continued discussion of readings for the week (Lecture and discussion on

aesthetic, political and social Agendas- What does Realism mean?)

March 3-7

For Mon.: LIVING THEATER Chapter 13, THEATER FROM 1915-1945

For Wed. Brockett Chapter 17 and Six Characters in Search of an Author
Review for Quiz

For Fri: Continued discussion of readings for the week. QUIZ

March 10-14

For. Monday, Brockett, Chapter 18

For Wed.: Brecht, "Theater for pleasure or theater for Instruction"
(Worthen 767)
and Mother Courage (Worthen)
For Fri.: Review for Mid-term and discuss essay topics/questions.

March 17-21 Spring Break

March 24-28

Monday: MID-TERM EXAM

Wed. Antonin Artaud The Theatre and Its Double (Worthen 1271); Martin
Esslin,

Theatre of the Absurd (Worthen 1277)

For Fri.: LIVING THEATER Chapter 14 (Postwar) and Beckett's Endgame
(Worthen) Bring script to class.

March 31-April 4 (We will be backtracking a bit here chronologically to the
1930s)

For Monday: Brockett Chapter 19, (English-Language Theatre in the Early
20th

century (452-468 in 9th ed.) Start film "CRADLE WILL ROCK

For Wednesday: View and discuss film "CRADLE WILL ROCK"

For Friday: View and discuss film "CRADLE WILL ROCK", review for Quiz.

April 7-11

For Monday: QUIZ #4, also read Henry Louis Gates "Beyond the
Culture Wars"

(Worthen 1038); and Los Vendidos by Luis Valdez (Worthen) Bring this script
to class!

For Wed: Ntosake Shange spell#7(Worthen) LIVING THEATER Chapter 15,
475-488 (Contemporary)

For Fri.: Angels in America (Worthen)

April 14-18

For Monday: Frederic Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society"
(Worthen 1281)

For Wed: Caryl Churchill's Cloud Nine (Worthen) Review for Quiz

For Fri.: QUIZ #5

April 21-25

For Monday: Workshop on writing papers

For Wed: Student presentations, discussion

For Fri: Student presentations, discussion

April 28-30

For Monday: Theatre History Jeopardy

For Wed: Theatre History Jeopardy and Party

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Academic Honesty

UGA has an official policy of students doing their own work without cheating or plagiarizing. If you think you might be cheating or plagiarizing, you probably are, so stop it and be honest, and encourage others to be honest too!