

TH425 THEATRE HISTORY I
Fanuchanan 2025

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Office: EC107G Hours: M/W 9:30 – 11am and T/TH 11am-12:30pm
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Description

This is a comprehensive survey of Western and Oriental Theater from earliest times to 1700.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have successfully demonstrated the ability to:

1. Analyze a theatrical script for major play arc beats, character development, and production needs;
2. Discuss major texts from classical and neoclassical storytelling canon;
3. Write a short script using classical storytelling techniques; and
4. Describe one non-Western theatre form in detail.

Course SLOs	Fine Arts PLOs	ILOs
Analyze a theatrical script for major play arc beats, character development, and production needs;	PLO1 Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists.	ILO1 Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving. ILO5 Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences
Discuss major texts from classical and neoclassical storytelling canon	PLO1 Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists.	ILO1 Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving. ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning
Write a short script using classical storytelling techniques	PLO4 Demonstrate mastery of one artistic skill in public displays and performances using professional production values from coursework.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO4 Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO5 Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology
Describe one non-Western theatre form in detail	PLO1 Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists. PLO3 Apply the interrelationship of the arts and its influence in society.	ILO3 Effective oral and written communication ILO4 Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6 An appreciation of the arts and sciences ILO7 An interest in personal development and lifelong learning

Participation

Theatre is a collaborative, participatory art form. You are expected to attend every class meeting and complete the activities each day. After your second absence, 5% will be taken from your overall grade for each consecutive absence, whether excused or unexcused. Three tardies equal an absence.

Classical Stories

we will be reading several plays together this semester taking us through the classical and neoclassical periods. These will be read and discussed in class.

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles

Medea by Euripides, Robinson Jeffers translation

Lysistrata by Aristophanes

Doctor Faustus by Thomas Marlowe

Hamlet, a tragedy

Tartuffe by Moliere

We will also watch a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, as directed by Julie Taymor. We will discuss this in great detail in terms of its theatrical approach and use of story-telling conventions.

Presentations on Non-Western Theatre Forms

Each student in the class will give a presentation on one of the major non-western theatrical/performative artforms prior to 1700, such as Noh, Kabuki, Bunraku, Chinese Opera, Indonesian puppetry forms, Hawai'ian Hula, and indigenous storytelling in New Zealand. You will prepare a PowerPoint presentation explaining the general context of the major forms of plays in that country/period, the main playwrights, the main plays, major festivals/companies, and prominent characteristics of each period. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes long. You are encouraged (!) to include video clips of plays in the style.

Classical Storytelling Project

Each student will write a ten-minute playscripts utilizing the following classical storytelling conventions: two-character rule and a plot structure with beginning/middle/end and following three unities of time, place, and action. The story and diction may be contemporary. The conventions will be classical.

Grading

Grades are earned by a balance of participation and successful completion of course activities.

Participation (33%)

Presentation (33%)

Playscript (33%)

We will discuss, in class, grades earned for each of these elements, as well as overall grade earned, using the descriptions below.

Grade	Points	Description
A+	98 - 100	Outstanding Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	
C	70-76	Adequate Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
D	60-69	Deficient Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
F	0-59	Failure Inadequate to receive credits.

Accommodation

If you are a student with disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. I will receive notification your approved accommodation(s) from the SCAS Accommodations office.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the student code of conduct at UOG. It includes copying exam answers, copying writing without proper citation, paraphrasing another author without proper citation or representing another person's work as if it was your own (see the UOG Student Handbook p. 49). If you are caught plagiarizing (or cheating), the minimum penalty is failure of the project or exam. Severe cases will be turned into the student disciplinary board and may be failed from the course.

SMOKE-FREE

UOG is a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, and for helping make UOG a healthy learning and living environment.

AI Statement:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student's original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student's endeavors. **Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.**

Example of attribution language: "The author generated this text in part with GPT-3, OpenAI's large-scale language-generation model. Upon generating draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their own liking and takes ultimate responsibility for the

COURSE SCHEDULE

AUG	14	WED	Course Introductions
AUG	19	MON	Oedipus Rex
AUG	21	WED	Oedipus Rex
AUG	26	MON	Medea
AUG	28	WED	Medea
SEPT	2	MON	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
SEPT	4	WED	Discussion of Classical Storytelling
SEPT	9	MON	Lysistrata
SEPT	11	WED	Lysistrata
SEPT	16	MON	Doctor Faustus
SEPT	18	WED	Doctor Faustus
SEPT	23	MON	Midsummer Night's Dream
SEPT	25	WED	Midsummer Night's Dream
SEPT	30	MON	Watch <i>Complete Works of Shakespeare</i> in Class
OCT	2	WED	Discuss Shakespeare
OCT	9	MON	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
OCT	11	WED	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
OCT	14	MON	Hamlet
OCT	16	WED	Hamlet
OCT	21	MON	Hamlet
OCT	23	WED	Tartuffe
OCT	28	MON	Tartuffe
OCT	30	WED	Tartuffe
NOV	4	MON	Workshop Readings of Scripts
NOV	6	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts **PROM PERFORMANCES AT 7PM **
NOV	11	MON	No Class: <i>Veteran's Day</i>
NOV	13	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts ** PROM PERFORMANCES AT 7PM **
NOV	18	MON	Workshop Readings of Scripts
NOV	20	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts ** THANKSGIVING BREAK **
NOV	25	MON	Non-Western Presentations
NOV	27	WED	Non-Western Presentations
DEC	2	MON	Non-Western Presentations
DEC	4	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts

** Final Reading As Per Final Exam Schedule **