

App-4/17/12

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Signature Date 15 April 12

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THTR 211 History and Literature: Classical

3 credits

3 lecture hours, 0 lab hours

A lecture course that surveys Western theater from its origins through the present. Credit

playwrights, actors, and theorists. The course includes the study of cultural, social, political, and economic contexts of Western theatre in this period; contextual comparisons to Eastern theatre of the same era; as well as the changes in performance practice, the architecture of performance space, theatre technology, and audience composition.

Course Outcomes and Assessment (Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes—

Rationale: Assignments will require students to identify styles, make informed judgments about

how these styles influenced each other, and understand the identities and cultures of others

Compare and contrast the major themes and concerns of the plays under study.

including human concepts of, and relationship to, the divine and supernatural.

EUSLO 1 and 2: Informed and Empowered Learners

Rationale: Assignments will require students to identify contemporary beliefs regarding the

supernatural, and to make analytical judgments regarding the effects of these beliefs on play-making and audience reception.

Aeschylus II (3 hours): Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*; Aeschylus as Athenian citizen, continuation of Oresteia cycle

Aeschylus and democracy (3 hours): Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*, central myth of Athenian democracy, place of women in society

Sophocles and fate (3 hours): Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*; Sophocles as Athenian citizen; Oedipus myth; influence on modern psychology; questionnaires of Aristotle and Euripides

man's place in the universe

Euripides the outsider (3 hours): Euripides, *Medea*; god from the machine; Euripides as relatively unsuccessful playwright in his time; "modernity" of Euripides' outlook

Old Comedy (3 hours): Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; nature of Greek "old comedy"

Aristophanes as satirist; the Peloponnesian War; the politics of *Lysistrata*

Aristotle and theatre criticism (3 hours): Aristotle, *Poetics*; meanings of key Aristotelean terms; beginnings of dramatic analysis; influence on modern theatre, crossing into Europe

The Romans (6 hours)

Romans and comedy (3 hours): Plautus, *The Brothers Menaechmus*; migration of Greek influences; Roman culture, theatre, and architecture

Romans and tragedy (3 hours): Seneca, *Medea*; further migration of Greek influences (compare with Euripides)

Finals Week: Preparation and submission of final paper

Evaluation Methods: This is a representative method of evaluation, which will vary according to instructor.

Quizzes on the assigned material throughout the semester **(30 points total)**

Students will lead one class discussion **(5 points)**

Group project: student will present a short (3-5 minute) scene from one of the plays under

study. Project will include an oral introduction to the piece, as well as a one-page response to the project. **(5 points)**

Papers:

A thought paper on one of the plays under study (500 words) **(5 points)**

A comparison-contrast paper on two of the plays under study (750-1,000 words) **(10 points)**

A final paper that will synthesize major themes in an investigation of authors and plays, involving independent research, use of reliable sources, and application of original thought

and analysis (1,750-2,000 words) **(25 points)**

Fraser, N. *Theatre History Explained*

Wilson, E. & Goldfarb, A. *Living Theatre: A History*

Cambridge University Press

Watson, J. *A Cultural History of Theatre*

McConachie, B., et al. *Theatre Histories*

Course Analysis Questionnaire

A. Details of the Course

A1. This course is required for majors in the BA in Theater Program. This course offering is being created as part of a strategic review of the Department's Curriculum. The current History of Theatre requirements can be met without majors gaining a comprehensive knowledge of the history of Western theater, since only two of the four courses currently offered (THTR 205 Classic Theatre 1, THTR 205 Classic Theatre 2, THTR 207 Modern 1, and THTR 208 Modern 2) are required, resulting in chronological gaps in knowledge. The reorganization of the curriculum

will result in three required courses that successively survey the history of Western theatre from origins to present day. This course is the first in that sequence.

A2. This course will require changes in Classic Theatre 1 and 2.

A3. This course has not been offered on a trial basis, but represents a re-organization of material currently taught in THTR 207 Classic 1, and THTR 208 Classic 2.

A4. This course is not intended to be dual level.

A5. This course is not to be taken for variable credit.

A6. Similar courses are offered at the following institutions, among others:

University of Washington: History of Greek and Roman Theatre

Tufts University: Theatre and Society I: Prehistory through 1700

Drew University: History of Theatre: Origins to Renaissance

C. Implementation

~~C1. No new faculty member is required to teach this course. The course offering is being~~

created as part of a strategic review of the Department's Curriculum. This review has taken account of current Department complement and been structured accordingly. This course will be counted as one preparation and three hours of equated workload.

C2. Other resources:

- a. Current space allocations are adequate to offer this course.
- b. No special equipment is needed for this course.
- c. No laboratory supplies are necessary for this course.
- d. Library holdings are adequate.
- e. No travel is anticipated.

C3. No grant funds were necessary to provide the resources for this course.

~~C4. This course will be offered every four semesters.~~

C5. One section will be offered at a time.

C6. Up to 20 students can be accommodated in this class in which students do a considerable amount of writing.

C7. No professional society recommends enrollment limits or parameters for this course.

C8. This course does not involve the use of distance education.

D. Miscellaneous

No additional information is necessary.