

COURSE SYLLABUS
THR 360W.01
History of the Theatre I
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2007

- Location & Times: CB 125, 12:30-1:50 Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Instructor: David A. McTier, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theatre
- Office & Phone: Smith-Kirkley G27, 936-294-4063
- e-mail: dam005@shsu.edu
- Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF; 11:00-12:00 TuTh; other times available by appointment
- Blackboard: Course materials and grades are available on Blackboard.
- Catalogue Description: A survey of the origins of the theatre, with major concentration centered upon the development of the western theatre from the Greeks to the Neoclassic. Writing Enhanced. Credit 3.
- Course Description: As a theatre practitioner and a teacher in a B.F.A. program, I believe that the knowledge we acquire is of little value unless we can apply it directly to our own current and future work; thus, the focus and assessment of our learning will be dramaturgical—applying knowledge to theatre production in the hope that we all will make creative but informed choices as thinking artists. On Mondays, I will present a lecture/discussion on the topic at hand. On Wednesdays, we usually will focus on an assigned script, beginning with a short quiz followed by discussion. On Fridays, we will focus on production applications of that script and/or its represented genre through recent stage productions and film treatments.
- Course Objectives: For each period and/or genre we explore, you should be able to:
- *understand why theatre was created*: understand and appreciate the historical and cultural context;
 - *understand how theatre was produced*: theatrical conventions, writing, financing, performance, design, technology, architecture, etc.;
 - *apply this knowledge* to your own work as a theatre practitioner; and,
 - *communicate your ideas* effectively through individual writings and online postings.
- Recommended Text: Oscar Brockett and Franklin Hildy, *History of the Theatre*, 9th Edition
OR Oscar Brockett and Franklin Hildy, *History of the Theatre, Foundation Edition*
- Supplies & Expenses: You are required to attend all three UTC season productions: *Oedipus* (Sept. 26-29), *Quake* (Oct. 17-20), and *42nd Street* (Nov. 14-17). Information gained from attending these productions will be used in class discussions and your attendance will substitute for any classes that I, as instructor, have to cancel. Your course fee provides you with one complimentary ticket to each of these productions.
- Grading System: This semester, we will use a simple point system: you will gain points through quizzes, projects, and papers; you will lose points by being late or missing class. Other than quizzes on the assigned scripts, there are no examinations. Note, however, you all are required to attend class during the final exam period, during which time the final creative projects will be shared.

- Point Opportunities: reading up to 10 scripts
writing a critique of *Oedipus*
researching, writing, and posting up to 3 dramaturgy projects
preparing and sharing a final creative project of your choosing
- Assigned Scripts: Due to copyright laws, I cannot post any scripts online, even in Blackboard; however, I will post links to scripts that legally are available online. For other copyrighted scripts that are not available online, I will place two (2) copies on reserve in the main library.
- Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class and be punctual and prepared. University policy stipulates that: *A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.*
- Thus, you are allowed to miss two (2) TuTh classes without penalty. Beyond those, you will be penalized five (5) points for each additional absence. Similarly, you are afforded two (2) tardies; beyond those, you will be penalized one (1) point for each additional tardy.
- Only two exceptions are made regarding absences: one, religious holy days and required travel time (requests must be submitted within the first fifteen days of the semester); and, two, pre-approved and documented university obligation, e.g., attending the KCACTF state festival. If you miss class due to pre-approved religious or university obligation, you still are required to submit projects and papers no later than the established due date.
- If you have excessive absences, even for legitimate reasons, you will lose points. The only way to recover those points is by undertaking more projects and papers.
- Late & Makeup Work: Projects and papers are to be submitted no later than the established due date. Work submitted late will not be accepted unless there is an extraordinary situation approved by me, the instructor, or requested by the Dean's Office.
- If you miss a quiz for any reason, you will not be afforded an opportunity to make up those points.
- Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- Please note that all of the projects you undertake as well as the papers you write and submit in this class are individual. You may not use or submit writing by any person other than yourself.*
- Classroom Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to

leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

You may not bring food or candy into the classroom. Beverages are acceptable as long as you clean up any spills and dispose of your containers. Gum and lozenges are acceptable only if I, the instructor, cannot see, hear, or smell them.

Student Disabilities: SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and then talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation will be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Points Available: 120 total points are available. You will determine which quizzes, projects, and papers you need to undertake to acquire the points needed for the grade you desire. (You only need 90 points to earn an "A" in the course.)

Quizzes	(10 quizzes at 4 points each)	40 total
Dramaturgy Projects	(3 projects at 20 points each)	60 total
Mid-Term Critique of <i>Oedipus</i>	(1 critique at 10 points)	10 total
Final Creative Project	(1 project at 10 points)	10 total

There are no additional "bonus" points available.

Penalty Points Late to Class (first 2 free; -1 for each tardy after)

Absent (first 2 free; -5 for each absence after)

Quizzes: On the day that the reading of an assigned script is due, you will begin class with a brief, objective quiz. If you are late or absent, you will not be able to take the quiz and accrue the available points. The questions on the quiz will be designed to demonstrate that you have read the script and, therefore, are prepared to participate in that day's discussion.

Dramaturgy Projects: You may pursue up to three (3) projects, each of which focuses on the dramaturgy essential to produce a given script. Components of this project are: basic facts about the script, characters, and plot; staging conventions (of the original production); problems posed by the script and our current situation at SHSU; brief production history; your purpose, interpretation, and concept as director; how that concept affects design choices; and visual and audio resources of value.

Critique of *Quake*: You may elect to critique our upcoming production of *Oedipus*. Guidelines will be provided before the production opens. (Students in Theatre History II will critique *Quake*, since that text and period coincide with the parameters of that course.)

Final Creative Project: In lieu of a final exam, you may pursue a creative project of personal interest and relevance...almost anything that would be of benefit to you and your portfolio and that represents our pre-modern timeframe and that I approve in advance. This project will be shared during the final exam period.

Submitting Work: We will be attempting a (nearly) paperless semester. If current plans continue to materialize, then you will submit all of your writing via a personal blog on Blackboard.