

Theatre 125: Introduction to Theatre History
Spring 2014 MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. HFA 169

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Chapman

Email: chapmajj@uwec.edu

Office Hours: MW 12-1 p.m.; F 9-10 a.m.; and by appointment

Office: 180 HFA

Phone: 715-836-5614

General Course Description:

This course is a survey of theatre history, Greece to the present, through the lens of dramatic literature. The semester will be reading intensive; plan accordingly in your schedule. This course is designed for two groups of students: the theatre arts major who needs to develop the fundamental tools of analysis for theatre artists, critics, and educators; and the liberal arts student who wishes to explore a spectrum of dramatic literature in critical and historical context. This class meets the following UWEC academic goals: knowledge of human culture and the natural world; creative and critical thinking; effective communication; individual and social responsibility; and respect for diversity among people. Any student who has a disability and is in need of classroom accommodations, please contact the instructor and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office in Old Library 2136 at the beginning of the semester.

Required Text:

Worthen, W.B. *The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*. Fifth Edition.
Thomson/Wadsworth: Boston, MA, 2004. (RENTAL)

Recommended Text:

Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb. *Living Theatre: A History*. Fourth Edition. McGraw Hill: Boston, MA, 2004. **OR** Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb. *Living Theatre: A History*. Fifth Edition. McGraw Hill: Boston, MA, 2006.

Required Purchases:

Tickets to 3 UWEC productions. Your options are: *A Man of No Importance*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, *Skyline*, and *DanceWorks*.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and active in-class participation	See descriptions below
Quizzes	20%
Production attendance (3)	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%

Attendance/Participation

Students are allowed 3 absences without penalty. These 3 absences include everything: illness, emergencies, trips home, personal time, etc. After 3 absences, the total final grade is decreased by ½ a grade for each additional unauthorized absence. Students are responsible for obtaining notes and homework assignments for days missed. **Missed in-class quizzes cannot be made up.** The three lowest quiz grades will be dropped from the final grade. Thus, quizzes missed within the allowable absence policy will not negatively affect the final grade. Each student is expected to arrive to class on time, actively participate in large and small group discussions, and take detailed notes of the lecture. Active listening is just as important as verbal participation. Students must come to class well rested and well read; any student working on other coursework, falling asleep or otherwise distracted will be asked to leave class and take an absence.

Quizzes (20%)

For every play we read, students will complete an in-class quiz on the assigned material. There are no “pop” quizzes, however, the professor may not always remind you of an upcoming quiz. **Missed in-class quizzes cannot be made up.** The three lowest quiz grades will be dropped from the final grade. Thus, quizzes missed within the allowable absence policy will not negatively affect the final grade.

Production Attendance (20%)

Students will attend three productions of the UWEC Theatre Dept. Your options are: *A Man of No Importance*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, *Skyline*, and *DanceWorks*. Students will turn in their ticket stub as evidence of attending. Ticket stubs must be stapled to an 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper with the student’s name and date of attendance printed on it. If you usher, you will have the House Manager sign the Usher Form, (available in class) and turn that in instead of a ticket stub.

Midterm/Final Exam (30%/30%)

Each exam will be taken in class, and will consist of short answer and short essay questions. Neither exam is cumulative, but the final exam may reference terminology and concepts covered before the midterm.

Course Outline: Theatre 125

Week 1

- Jan 22 Intro/syllabus
- 24 Video: *Fires in the Mirror*

Week 2

- Jan 27 Lecture: Read: *Fires in the Mirror* **(QUIZ)** LAST DAY TO ADD
- 29 Lecture/Discussion: Ancient Greece. Read: Worthen pg. 11-22
- 31 Lecture: Read: *Oedipus the King*

Week 3

- Feb 3 Video: *Oedipus the King* **(QUIZ)** LAST DAY TO DROP
- 5 Lecture: Medieval/Renaissance England. Read: Worthen pg. 207-231
- 7 Lecture: Medieval/Renaissance England.

Week 4

- Feb 10 Lecture: Read: *Hamlet* **(QUIZ)**
- 12 Lecture/Discussion: *Hamlet*
- 14 Lecture/Discussion: Classical Japan. Read: Worthen pg. 139-153

Week 5

- Feb 17 Lecture: Read: *Matsukaze* **(QUIZ)**
- 19 Lecture: Modernism and Realism
- 21 Lecture: Read: *A Doll’s House* **(QUIZ)**

Week 6

- Feb 24 Lecture/Discussion: Realism and Acting Technique
- 26 Lecture: Read: *The Cherry Orchard* **(QUIZ)**
- 28 Lecture/Discussion: *The Cherry Orchard*

Week 7

Mar 3 Lecture/Video: Early American Musical Theatre
 5 Lecture/Video: Early American Musical Theatre
 7 Lecture: Read: *Trifles* (**QUIZ**)

Week 8

Mar 10 Lecture/Discussion: *Trifles*
 12 **Midterm Exam**
 14 Lecture/Discussion: Theatre of the Absurd.

Week 9 SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES**Week 10**

Mar 24 Lecture/Discussion: Theatre of the Absurd.
 26 Lecture: Read: *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (**QUIZ**)
 28 Lecture/Discussion: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Week 11

Mar 31 Lecture: Read: *Endgame*
 Apr 2 Video: *Endgame*
 4 Lecture/Discussion: *Endgame* (**QUIZ**)

Week 12

Apr 7 Lecture/Discussion: Theatre and Identity Politics LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
 9 Lecture: Read: *Dutchman* (**QUIZ**)
 11 Video: *Dutchman*

Week 13

Apr 14 Lecture/Video: Mid-Century developments in Musical Theatre
 16 Lecture: Read: *Fences* (**QUIZ**)
 18 Lecture/Discussion: *Fences*

Week 14

Apr 21 Lecture: Read: *Zoot Suit* (**QUIZ**)
 23 Video: *Zoot Suit*
 25 Lecture: *Zoot Suit*/Postmodern Drama

Week 15

Apr 28 Lecture/Discussion: Postmodern Drama
 30 Lecture: Read: *Cloud Nine* (**QUIZ**)
 May 2 Lecture/Discussion: *Cloud Nine*

Week 16

May 7 Lecture: Read: *Blasted*
 9 Lecture/Video: Late-Century developments in Musical Theatre
 11 Lecture/Discussion/Wrap-up/Course Evaluations

Final Exam: Friday, May 16, 2014, 1:00 – 2:50 p.m.
The professor reserves the right to adjust the course calendar

according to the needs of the class.

Grading Scale: THEA 125

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	60%-66%
F	59% or less

Addendum

Academic Integrity Policy

The Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff, and students of the University of Wisconsin System believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the University of Wisconsin System. The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept consequences of their actions. (University of Wisconsin Ch. UWS 14)

Authorized Absences

UWEC defines an authorized absence as 1) participation in an approved field trip listed in the catalogue as a requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled; or 2) participation in an authorized extra-curricular activity on the regularly approved calendar of university events; or 3) illness, injury, or emergency of such severity as to prevent the student from being able to attend class. Please report authorized absences, providing supportive information from the office of the Associate Dean of Students or other appropriate documentation or the professor. Students who have an authorized absence may make arrangements with the professor to make up missed work.

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you are an individual with a disability who requires an accommodation to fully participate in academic programs or campus activities, please contact the professor or the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in Old Library 2136 or at 715-836-4542, the ADA Coordinator at 715-836-3051, or the Affirmative Action office at 715-836-2522.

FERPA

Student rights concerning access to education records are detailed in the Federal Public Law 98-380 as amended by Public Law 93-568 and in regulations published by the Department of

Education. Students' records and class schedules will be released only to students showing proper identification.