



## Theatre History & Literature II THEA 3352

*Theatre History  
From the Restoration to Present*

Instructor: Jay Stratton  
Class: T, TR 10:30-11:50  
Fox 180

Cell: 347-581-6468  
Email: [strattoncoach@gmail.com](mailto:strattoncoach@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Anytime by Appointment

Required Texts: TBD. At the moment, I am trying to run the course with NO required text. However, it may be necessary to get a copy of History of the Theatre. Tenth Edition. Brockett & Hildy. (Earlier editions are acceptable). Any additional readings will be available at the library in general stacks, at the reserve desk, or through me.

### **Course Objectives**

After this course, you should:

1. Have a greater understanding of theatre history from the Restoration to modern times.
2. Be able to read plays more easily and with a keener eye.
3. Have greater knowledge of the social relevance of the theatre, past and present.

### **Grading**

#### Play Responses and Quizzes (20% total – 10 plays at 2% each)

We will be reading 10 plays over the course of the semester. For each play there will be some combination of written response, quiz, or both.

Details to follow.

#### Midterm Exam (10%)

There will be an exam on our final class BEFORE Spring Break. This exam will cover first half semester material.

#### Page to Stage Group Presentation (25%)

You will be randomly assigned a group focused on one of our 10 assigned semester plays. You and your group will have one entire class period to give a presentation on that particular play.

Details to follow.

#### Comparison Paper (10%)

You will write a short (2000 word) paper comparing one play from our semester with another related play NOT on our syllabus. (For example, comparing Zoot Suit with another play from the Chicano/ Latino theatre cannon or comparing Waiting for Godot with another piece of Absurdism.)

Details to follow.

Live Production Response: *King Lear* (5%)

Each student is required to see this UTEP production and write a brief response paper. Details to follow.

Final Exam (15%)

There will be a final exam on our assigned exam date. This exam will cover material from the entire semester.

Participation (15%)

You will be graded on your focus, willing participation, supportive attitude, and individual progress in daily class work. Respect and enthusiasm for the lessons and the work of your fellow actors is a crucial part of this class work.

**Grading Scale**

You will be assigned a letter grade on each of the above assignments. (A=4.0, B=3.0 etc.) Your final class grade is based on a weighted average of these grades (before any modification for attendance) according to the following scale.

A	=	3.50+
B	=	2.50 - 3.49
C	=	1.50 - 2.49
D	=	0.50 - 1.49
F	=	Less than .50

Extra Credit

There are two ways to earn extra credit in this class:

First, I give extra credit to students with PERFECT attendance. For more on this, please see the attendance section of our class policies.

Second, you may earn extra credit by doing additional live production responses.

Every student is required to write a production response for *King Lear*. However, you can earn extra credit by seeing live performances and writing responses for many other productions in the area. Examples include *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Firebird*, *Rock of Ages*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and many others.

To earn extra credit, your response must be at least 500 words and must touch on what you as a performer learned from watching the production. In other words, "I liked it" doesn't cut it. Value of an extra credit response is up to me.

Details on live production responses to follow.

*Syllabus may change with appropriate notice*



## Theatre History & Literature II Class Policies

**Communication:** I rely heavily on email for communication. You **MUST** check your preferred email daily. My favorite way to receive written assignments is a **WORD DOCUMENT** attached to an email. However, I also happily accept hard copies of written work.

**Attendance:** The best way to trash your grade is with bad attendance. In the professional world, theatre artisans always show up and they are always on time. Nothing less is acceptable. Class starts on time; one minute after is late.

In this class, *absent and late are the same thing*. **You may be absent or late 3 times**, no questions asked. On your fourth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced one letter grade. On your sixth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced two letter grades. If you have eight or more attendance issues, you cannot receive a passing grade in the course.

At my discretion, an absence may be excused for legitimate medical reasons, professional obligations, or family emergency. The request for an excused absence must be asked for in writing. I may also ask for some kind of proof of the circumstances. If you have an absence, you are still responsible for missed work. Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.

At my discretion, a student with **perfect attendance** may be given a *bonus to their final grade!*

**Phones and Electronics:** Phones and electronics in class are a pet peeve of mine. All phones and electronics should be turned off for the duration of class. If you take out a phone, tablet, or other electronic device without permission during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. If a phone rings during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. Also, I will freak out.

Exception: if you prefer to take notes on a tablet, ask me and most often the answer will be yes.

**Late Work:** Written work is due by the beginning of class the scheduled calendar day. Written work turned in after the due date will be penalized 1 full letter grade. Written work turned in more than one week late will be penalized 2 full letter grades.

**Academic Dishonesty:** University Policy will be strictly adhered to and absolutely no academic impropriety will be tolerated. All transgressions of university policy including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, the unauthorized exchange of information for written assignments or tests, theft via the computer or infringement of the rights of other to academic freedom (i.e. disrupting class, disrespectful comments towards classmates or instructor) will result in a failing grade for this course as well as disciplinary procedures as adopted by the university and described in the current student handbook.

**Disabled Student Statement:** In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call [915-747-5148](tel:915-747-5148) for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you may have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and the Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

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