



Theatre History & Literature I THEA 3351

*OLD...
But still SEXY!!*

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: T, TR 1:30-2:50
Fox 180

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Office: D073 (Basement)
Hours: Mon 12:30-1:20, Thurs 3:00-4:00, or Anytime by Appointment

Required Texts: TBD. At the moment, I am trying to run the course with NO required text. 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 knowledge and understanding of theatre history from the ancients through the mid-17th century.
2. Be able to read plays more easily and with a keener eye.
3. Have greater knowledge of the social relevance of the theatre of the past and how that theatre can still be relevant today.

Grading

Play Responses and Quizzes (30% total – 10 readings at 3% each)

We will be reading many plays over the course of the semester. We will also have additional readings that will be available on Blackboard. The day these readings are due, we will usually have some kind of quiz or written response in class.

Live Production Response: *Medea* (5%)

Each student is required to see this UTEP production and write a brief response paper. 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 (20%)

You will be randomly assigned a group focused on one of our 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, Then and Now (5%)

You will write a short (2000-word max) paper comparing one play from our semester timeline to a modern play.

Details to follow.

Final Exam (20%)

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

Participation (10%)

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.

Participation grade includes things like your work on the Greek Chorus project, the Commedia dell'arte project, and the Jeopardy reviews.

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 *Medea*. However, you can earn extra credit by seeing live performances and writing responses for many other productions in the area. Examples include *Lydia*, *Cabaret*, *Anything Goes*, *Carnaval*, and many others.

To earn extra credit, your response must be at least 500 words and must utilize concepts we have discussed in class.

Details on live production responses to follow.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice



Theatre History & Literature I Class Policies

Communication: I rely heavily on email for communication. You **MUST** check your preferred email daily.

There are two ways to turn in written work to me: my **favorite** way to receive written assignments is a **WORD DOCUMENT** attached to an email.

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 or laptop, 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.

Liberal Arts Honors Program: This class has been designated as a Liberal Arts Honors Program [LAHP] course. It has received this designation because it features at least five of the Honors course criteria, which include student leadership, advanced readings and/or reviews, opportunities for intensive writing, opportunities for intensive research, opportunities to utilize technology, opportunities to make extensive use of campus resources, community-based experiences, pre-professional opportunities, and development of critical thinking. In broader terms, this course is honors-designated because of its creativity and/or intellectual rigor, both of which are integral components of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. No additional coursework is necessary for this course to count towards the LAHP Honors minor. If you are not a member of the LAHP, and are interested in the program, please visit the LAHP website at <http://academics.utep.edu/lahp>.

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