

THEATRE APPRECIATION
Credits: 3 (GDR HU1; GEP Arts)

Course: THEA 105 (SPR 2017)

Section 1

Classroom: NFAC 221

Class Time: T&R 11-12:15

Office: NFAC 211

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Stephens

Phone: 346-4706

Email: jstephen@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: M & W 9:30-11:30;
R 2-4; other times by appt.

Required Texts:

Stephens, Jeffrey. *Theatre Appreciation*. This is an anthology of plays that accompanies the course. (Purchase). You will be able to sell back this book at end of term. (I receive no money via your purchase of this text.)

Wilson, Edwin. *The Theatre Experience*. 12th ed. 2011. (Rental)

Additional Cost:

You are required to attend one or both of the following UWSP theatrical productions
IF you wish to earn extra credit:

The Miracle Worker, Mar. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 @ 7:30 pm and Mar. 5 @ 2pm in Jenkins Theatre

Blood Wedding, May 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 @ 7:30 pm and May 7 @ 2pm in Studio Theatre

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

UWSP students must acquire tickets IN PERSON at University Information & Tickets (in the Dreyfus University Center-Concourse Level) and bring their UWSP ID in order to receive discounted tickets. You must see one of these shows—no substitutions. Cost is \$4.50 per ticket with ID. From the Box Office Website: “Pick up a FREE ticket (with your ID) from University Information & Tickets the day of the event IF there are tickets remaining.” Non-UWSP guests must pay full price if tickets are available.

Ticket Information: 715-346-4100

Course Description: This course explores western dramatic literature, theatrical and performance history, and the ways in which plays are rendered on the stage. We are also interested in the “business” side of cultural production, that is, we are interested in how much it costs to stage various plays and how money is made and lost in the legitimate theatre. The dramas we will read and see examine a variety of issues (as do our lecture topics); thus, some contain ideas, values, and language that may not reflect your own. Think carefully about your enrollment in this course if you are offended by such exploration. Note that there are other courses on campus which satisfy the humanities requirement on your degree sheet. Courses in the humanities ask that you approach the subject matter with maturity and a healthy respect for other cultures and belief systems.

Learning OUTCOMES: Generally, the student enrolled in THEA 105 will derive a foundation for more discriminating play-going through analysis of major dramatic forms and masterworks, consideration of the methods and techniques of the principal theatre artists, and through surveying both international and American theatre and drama. Specifically, upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify, date, and describe the characteristics of the major eras of western dramatic writing and theatre production including the ancient Greek, the Shakespearean, the late 19th century, the modern European and American, and the postmodern;
- Write a critical analysis of a live theatre production following instructions provided in lecture that answer the following questions posed by drama critics: “What is being attempted?” and “Was the attempt worthwhile?”;
- Describe the duties among members of the standard production team such as lighting designer, costume designer, director, actor, and dramaturg;

- Answer questions on each exam that address the vocabulary of the theatre to prove comprehension;
- Delineate the differences between a literary approach to appreciating theatre and a performative one.

GEP Program Outcomes:

The General Education Program (GEP) seeks to develop these qualities of global citizenship in four distinct ways. After completing the general education curriculum, students will:

- Demonstrate critical thinking, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.
- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the physical, social, and cultural worlds as well as the methods by which this knowledge is produced.
- Recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- Apply their knowledge and skills, working in interdisciplinary ways to solve problems.

Teaching/Learning Style: Lecture, discussion, demonstration, theatre attendance, reading assigned plays and material from the textbook. We will make use of excerpts from several media. If you miss class on the day an excerpt from a production is shown, you will be unable to answer certain questions on the exams.

Attendance Policy: Beginning the second week of class, a seating chart will be used. You may choose your seat prior to the second week of classes. I often do not take attendance, but I use the seating chart when I do. Your presence on such days will translate into extra credit. It will be tempting for you to occasionally miss lectures as it's a long walk from the dorms, it's too cold, etc., but understand that not everything covered in lecture is found in your textbook.

If I must stop a lecture to ask a student to be quiet, I will deduct 20 points from your total point score at the end of the term. A second interruption will result in a letter grade drop after points are totaled at the end of the term. I will also contact your academic advisor.

Missed In-class Work: Students absent for university-sponsored activities or mandatory military service may make up work missed due to such absence with no penalty. Proof of involvement in an officially sanctioned university event must be provided BEFORE the event occurs. Exams must be taken on the date listed in the syllabus. If you miss an exam and I allow you to take the exam at a later date (within a day after the originally scheduled exam), the maximum number of points you will earn is 50 out of 100.

Exams & Grading: Four exams during the term (FORMAT is multiple choice); one final exam same format. THE FINAL EXAM IS COMPREHENSIVE.

Four exams @ 100 pts. each	=	400 pts.
One final exam @ 100 pts.	=	<u>100 pts.</u>
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	=	500 pts.

Grading Scale: There are 500 points possible. 450-500 = A; 400-449 = B; 350-399 = C; 300-349 = D; 0-299 = F. UWSP uses + (plus) and - (minus) marks; therefore, within each 50-point range, final letter grades will include a "+" marking for the top third, no marking for the middle third, and a - (minus) marking for the bottom third. Example: 375 points total = C; 400 points total = B-; 440 points total = B+. Grades of A+ and F+ do not exist; therefore, if you receive 499 points, for example, you will receive an "A" for the course, not an "A+".

Plagiarism: This course defines "plagiarism" as using undocumented source material as your own thought on any formal writing assignment. If it is discovered that you have plagiarized a review, or have "cheated" on an exam, you will receive zero points for that assignment and be referred to your advisor and/or academic dean for appropriate disciplinary action.

Disability & Assistive Technology Services: “. . .) Individuals with disabilities have a right to request accommodations and individuals will receive appropriate accommodations they need to fully participate in or benefit from the University's programs, services and activities in a non-discriminatory, integrated setting. Pursuant to the System policy, each institution maintains an office (located on the sixth floor of the library/ph. 346-3365) as a resource for students, faculty, and staff. Students may document a disability and request auxiliary aids from this office.”

Class Room Security: See UWSP Risk Management Department’s website.

Schedule (Subject to change) Always check your email daily before class.

Please note that the “DUE” column below means due on that day for discussion.

“Text” refers to chapters in the Wilson textbook. All plays (*in italics*) are in the anthology. *How I Learned to Drive* is also available via the library’s e-reserve page.)

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
T Jan. 24	Introduction/Textbook/Plays	Text: 3-12; 27-37
R Jan. 26	Study of Theatre/Humanities Greek Tragedy	Text: 46-51; 164-169; 197-201; <i>Oedipus the King</i>
T Jan. 31	Continued from 1/26	Text: 155-164; <i>Oedipus the King</i>
R Feb. 2	History of Acting	Text: 93-108
T Feb. 7	Stage Acting Today	Text: 108-121
R Feb. 9	Non-Tragic Genres Dramatic Form & Conventions Intro to Shakespearean Tragedy	Text: 197; 201-218
T Feb. 14	FIRST EXAM	
R Feb. 16	Shakespearean Tragedy	<i>Othello</i> acts I, II
T Feb. 21	Continued	<i>Othello</i> acts III, IV
R Feb. 23	Continued	<i>Othello</i> act V
T Feb. 28	Broadway & Off-Broadway	Text: 52-57
R Mar. 2	Scenery & Design	Text: 229-251; 261-269
T Mar. 7	Continued from 3/2	<i>A Doll House</i> act I
R Mar. 9	Rise of Stage Realism	Text: 37-43; 187-188; <i>A Doll House</i> acts II, III
T Mar. 14	SECOND EXAM	
R Mar. 16	TBA	
T Mar. 21	SPRING BREAK	
R Mar. 23	SPRING BREAK	
T Mar. 28	Stage Spaces	Text: 67-86
R Mar. 30	The Director & the Producer	Text: 123-148
T Apr. 4	Continued from 3/30	
R Apr. 6	Dance + The Avant-Garde	
T Apr. 11	Formal Experiments	<i>How I Learned to Drive</i> (E-reserve); 166 & 358-362
R Apr. 13	THIRD EXAM	

T Apr. 18	Musical Theatre	Text: 182-183; 301-310
R Apr. 20	Continued from 4/18	
T Apr. 25	Musical Theatre	Text: 310-317
R Apr. 27	Off-Off Broadway + Performance Art + Postmodernism	Text: 181; 343-350; 362-365
T May 2	Theatre of Diversity African-American Experience	Text: 350-357
R May 4	Continued from 5/2	
T May 9	FOURTH EXAM	
R May 11	LAST DAY OF CLASSES: TBA	

<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 17, 8-10am Students MUST take the final at the scheduled time. The final exam is comprehensive.</p>
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