Syllabus for THAR 102:   Version 2: 8/29/05
Introduction to the History of Drama and Dance A: Origins to 1800
Fall 2005

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Courses WEBSITE:   http://www.sonoma.edu/users/d/draperp/
SSU Academic calendar link:   http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/calendars/index.shtml

Course Description:
This course examines Western Theater traditions of ritual, drama, and dance at their origins and traces dramatic tragedy and comedy from the Golden Age of Greece through the Age of Enlightenment, roughly 1800. Added emphasis is placed on traditional Asian theater forms. The course relates the theater's past to how theater is practiced today.

This is a General Education course that satisfies category C1, History of the Fine Arts. It relates historical movements in theater to the society, culture, and era in which it is created and connects past history to current trends and events. As an entry GE course, which is also a degree requirement for all Theatre Arts majors, the course provides learning skill in reading comprehension, note taking, essay writing, research, and collaboration with others to achieve a unified goal.

Mission of General Education at Sonoma State University:
General Education (GE) at Sonoma State University (SSU) investigates the complexity of human experience in a diverse natural and social world, and promotes informed and ethical participation as citizens of the world.

This course meets several GE Teaching Goals and Learning Objectives. See GE Goals and Objectives at www.sonoma.edu/Senate/Resolutions/GE_MGO.html

Teaching Goals:
1. To relate theater practice to society and culture, both past and present
2. To introduce the major events, trends, ideas, theatrical styles, and artists of significant periods in theater history
3. To demonstrate what elements and influences theater artists use create live performances

Learning Outcomes:
1. Understanding of the major events, trends, ideas, theatrical styles, and artists of significant periods in theater history
2. Develop college level critical thinking skills
3. Improve reading comprehension, and the ability to draw on that skill in discussion, quizzes, and exams
4. Improve ability to hear a lecture, take notes, and to assimilate related materials such as reading, lecture, discussion, video, etc.
5. Expanded ability to collaborate with others on academic/creative projects and writing
6. To know:
a. When major theater movements occurred, including dates and countries
b. Major plays and playwrights in each era, and other significant artists
c. How dance was integral to early theatrical forms
d. How dance became a specialized performance form in Western theater
e. Different types of performance space and theatrical design, as well as how they might have been used in each era
f. How cultures are reflected in the style of theater they created

Required Reading:
1. Excerpt from *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason (handout)
2. Excerpt from *Ali and Nino* by Kurban Said (handout)
3. *Ballet & Modern Dance* by Jack Anderson
5. *The Battle of Coxinga* by Chikamatsu, in *Four Major Plays by Chikamatsu*; translated by Donald Keene
9. Prologue and interludes to *Imaginary Invalid* (handout)
11. Excerpt from *Henry V* by Shakespeare (handout)
12. Excerpt from *Hamlet* by Shakespeare (handout)

Recommended companion text

Books are available at the SSU bookstore. *Living Theater* is on three-day reserve in the Schultz Information Center.

Course Requirements:
1. Class attendance, active discussion, and note taking in class.
2. Quizzes that test reading comprehension (see schedule). Your lowest quiz grade will be thrown out; the others will be averaged to form 20% of your final grade. Quizzes cannot be made up.
3. Mid-term. Essay questions on all material covered through **October 12**, including readings, plays, quiz material, lectures, discussions and any videos.
4. Group Project: Groups of four students will research and give PowerPoint or WEB presentations on significant plays and dances. Details to follow.
5. Written final: Essay questions comprehensive of the entire semester’s material with special emphasis on in class presentations of Group Projects.
6. Portfolio presentation—including notebook, group project materials, quizzes, and exams, due on the day of the FINAL.

Grading: This syllabus is a contract between the professors and the individual student. If you are in the class, you are agreeing to follow the requirements of the syllabus. As your professors, we agree to do our best to be prepared, engage your imaginations and intellects, and help you to succeed in the course.

Assessment of progress and achievement is made through performance on note taking, quizzes, research and presentation of projects, midterm, final, and portfolio. Chances for success (and a good grade) is improved by reading the material prior to the class date for which it is assigned, taking good notes, contributing your share to group work, and participating in discussions.
Notebooks (turned in 3 times)  15 pts  (5 pts each)
Proof of attendance at “Finding Books”
workshop at Schulz  5 pts  Due by Sept. 30.
Quizzes (cannot be made up)  20 pts  (average of all quizzes)
Mid-term  10 pts
Individual project
bibliography & outline  10 pts
Group outline & bibliography  10 pts  (due 1 week
prior to presentation date)
Group Project presentation  20 pts  (all group members receive the same
grade for outlines and projects)
Final  10 pts
100 pts  = 100%

D+: 67-69 / D: 64-66 / D-: 60-63 / F: please don’t do that

We take role. Once your letter grade for the term is calculated, absences will be considered, and if
warranted, you grade will be lowered. Generally, three absences equate to one letter grade drop. No
distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Come on time.

Text Book Related Web Resources:
http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072562579/information_center_view0/
A companion site to the textbook that provides all sorts of research resources, including definitions,
photos, links to other materials, etc.

aw-hill.com%2Fsites%2F0072562579%2Fstudent_view0%2Fglossary.html&course_id=115173
A good theater glossary, but the one in the text is better!
theatre research resource site-GREAT for your projects!

http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/dan/dan.html  Dance
Additional Theatre sites
http://www.videoccasions-nw.com/history/jack.html
A compendium of links to sites on historical information, including non-theater pages, this
annotated collection is divided into three categories: area studies; cultural sites; and centers,
museums and libraries. Areas of history include Classical, Medieval and Renaissance,
Elizabethan, and 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. There are also links and tips for effective Web
use. Subjects: Theater – History

http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~loxias/myth.htm
Oedipus Web page from “the Classics Page; designed and posted by Andrew Wilson

FYI: THAR 103: Introduction to the History of Drama and Dance B: 1800 to the Present (3 units). Part
two of a two part course (w/ THAR 102--Origins to 1800), this course examines theater, drama and dance
from the 19th Century to the present, including the rise of Realism and other theater and dance forms in
the 20th Century. Also considered are the American Musical, and recent trends in diversity and
multiculturalism, and the theater's relationship to electronic media. Satisfies GE, category C1 (History of
the Fine Arts). No prerequisite.