



Course Syllabus: **Theatre History 1**

College of Fine Arts
THEA 2433 Section 101
Fall 2025

Contact Information

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Course Description

History of playwriting, directing, acting and production from the beginnings through the early seventeenth century.

Course Objectives

- To understand some possible origins of theatre. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]
- To explore and understand the development of the playwright from the classical age through the Renaissance period. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]
- To explore and understand the development of the actor from the classical age through the Renaissance period. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]
- To explore and understand the development of scene/costume/lighting design from the classical age through the Renaissance period. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]
- To understand the development of the director from the classical age through the Renaissance period. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]
- To explore and discover the cultural, social and political aspects of a particular period and their influence on the theatre. [SLO: Knowledge of Development of Theatre]

Instructional Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, you will have some assigned readings on Digital Theatre +. Additionally, copies of the following scripts will be made available to you on D2L. Please use these copies when we discuss the scripts in class to ensure that we are all (literally) on the same page.

Oedipus Rex
The Wakefield Second Shepherd's Play
The Servant of Two Masters
King Lear

D2L

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

The majority of quizzes for this class will be on D2L. Quizzes will open at noon on Friday and close at noon on Sunday. You will be allowed to take each quiz as many times as you like during the 48 hours that it is open. The goal of a quiz is to help you learn the material, so go ahead and shoot for a perfect score!

Taking a class with online components requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class!

Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Periodically throughout the semester, students will be required to write a brief script analysis for the plays being studied in the class. A slightly different analysis form will be posted on D2L for each play.

At the end of each section of history, students will upload three open-ended questions to a discussion on D2L, questions that were not answered in the recently covered section. Due dates and times for these are listed on the Class Schedule.

The professor recommends that students **download the Pulse app** and turn it on to notify you of deadlines and any changes in D2L as it relates to this course.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without

following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). The use of any AI is plagiarism and so is strictly prohibited in this class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Table 1:

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (12 at 10 pts each)	120
Script analyses (4 at 50 points each)	200
Discussion questions (questions – 4 at 20 points each)	80
Midterm Exam	150
Research paper	150
Participation	100
Final Exam	200
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Quizzes

Many weeks this semester, there will be quizzes to take on D2L. (See D2L above for more specifications) Deadlines etc. can be found on the Class Schedule. The professor reserves the right to have pop quizzes in class.

Exams

There are two exams this semester in this class – a midterm and a final exam. The dates are clearly indicated on the Class Schedule. At the review period prior to taking the exams, a handout will be available with the essay questions listed. The essay questions are due on D2L by the time listed on the Class Schedule. The remaining parts of the exams will be taken on D2L and must be completed by the time listed on the Class Schedule.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit given in this class.

Late Work

The professor does not accept late work.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make up work will be available on a very limited basis and only if the student has notified the professor in writing BEFORE they will need to miss a class/deadline.

The professor further recommends:

- Using the provided hand sanitizer on arriving in and departing from the classroom.
- Download the app Pulse. Pulse allows D2L to send you reminders about upcoming deadlines, etc. You really want this app!

Participation/Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Unavoidable absence – Jury duty, death in the family, etc. You must send notification by email to the faculty member supervising the crew/rehearsal explaining the situation **prior to missing the class**. Be sure to include your name and your situation. If you are quarantined due to possible COVID-19 exposure, you are responsible for notifying the professor in writing **prior to missing the class** AND working with the professor to determine how to attend the class virtually. If you are ill, notify the professor **in writing** before class begins and you will receive an excused absence. If you test positive for Covid-19, please notify the professor immediately so that a conversation can be held regarding work due during that period.

Instructor Class Policies

See above for guidelines regarding absences.

The use of computers, cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited in this class unless the professor directs students to use their phone/computer. Texting in class will not be tolerated. If this is a problem, you will be asked to leave.

If classes are cancelled due to weather, the class will meet by zoom. Students will be sent a zoom link by D2L email at least one hour in advance of class.

I very much want to hear your well-considered thoughts and opinions and to answer your questions. This course is most effective when the overall spirit is one of collaboration – just like theatre!

College & University Policies

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28, 2025

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 22, 2025

Priority deadline to file for May graduation: November 1, 2025

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24, 2025

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016.

Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. The MSU scene shop has been designated an area excluded from concealed carry due to the presence of explosive chemicals. Students who serve

on properties, lights, set and sound crews will be required to enter the scene shop and should be aware of this policy. Additionally, participating in theatre classes often require students to wear fitted garments which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult, if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to leave their backpacks/purses and work with other students in scenes or rehearsals. This required activity may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in any area other than the scene shop, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and the university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to concealed carry in theatre classes/rehearsals.

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU Texas. MSU Texas is a tobacco free campus, which includes smoking, chewing, etc.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of MSU Texas are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Should the university need to transition to all online, the professor will revise the course schedule and grading as soon as possible.