



Course Syllabus: Theatre History 3
Fain College of Fine Arts
THEA 3003 Section 101
Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to do the following:

- Comprehend important developments in drama that have occurred since the mid-20th century (SLO: Knowledge of development of theatre)
- Experience a number of plays that illustrate these developments and analyze these play both orally and in writing (SLO: Knowledge of development of theatre)
- Articulate the impact of important writers and other theatrical personages who have shaped the contemporary theatre (SLO: Knowledge of development of theatre)
- Write a theatre research paper and summarize it in a live presentation.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Readings and playscripts that are required for the course will be provided on D2L.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given).

Use of ChatGPT or any form of AI on any project/assignment will be treated as plagiarism.

Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1:

Assignments	Points
Quizzes	80
Participation	100
Script analyses	160
Midterm Exam	125
Research paper	285
Presentation	100
Final Exam	150
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

Homework

You are expected to do the assignments when they are assigned. Failure to do so will result in an inability to keep pace with the class. All graded assignments should be submitted on or before the deadline. All written assignments **MUST** be typed. Handwritten work will NOT be accepted. **Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due on D2L no later than 10:00 am on the due date**

unless otherwise indicated. All work submitted on D2L must be in either Microsoft Word or PDF.

The professor does not accept emailed assignments.

Note Taking

Students are expected to take handwritten notes during every class and bring the previous days' notes to class. The professor will periodically ask to see the notes. Failure to have the classnotes or to have an unexcused absence on the day the notes are requested will result in receiving a 0 for that grade. These grades will factor into the Participation grade with attendance.

Quizzes

The professor reserves the right to give pop quizzes as needed. All online (D2L) quizzes are due by 8:59 am on the due date.

Mid-Term and Final Exam

The mid-term and final exams will include essay questions and an objective portion of the exam. The essay questions will be provided on the review sheet and will be prepared by the student outside of class and submitted on D2L prior to the start of the test/exam. Since the essays will be prepared in advance, points will be taken off for grammatical and spelling errors, in addition to any for failing to answer the question appropriately. Additional details of the tests/exam will be discussed in class

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit.

Late Work

Exams and other due dates are hard and fast. There are few exceptions but no exception will give unless the student notifies the professor **prior** to the start of class.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 27, 2026

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 21, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026

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

Desire-to-Learn (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.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. Since lectures expand on assignments, missing class means missing important information. This class is, by its nature, participatory. Missing class means missing the chance to participate in your own education and the education of others in the class. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the class. The professor reserves the right to disallow counting a student present who is extremely late (more than 10 minutes). The professor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class requirements, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct.

If you skip class and miss a quiz or graded exercise, it cannot be made up. If you miss class due to illness, you can make it up as long as you **text/email before the start of class**. Athletes know when their travel days are in advance of the date so any items due while the athlete is travelling for athletics need to be completed prior to the athlete leaving. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a 0 for that work.

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.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an blended online class 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 for this class.

****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, quizzes, 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! Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical computer 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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Many of us own and use cell phones as our major method of electronic communication. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones when entering the classroom. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered during class. Should the student need to take an emergency call, the professor

expects the student to leave the room and not return, minimizing the disruptions for the remaining students. Before class begins, ensure that cell phones are off or are disabled so the phone does not ring during class – better yet, do not bring your phone to class. If other commitments are so pressing that they cannot wait until the end of the class session, it may be in the student's best interests to reconsider the priority being placed on being in this class. TEXTING and SLEEPING will not be tolerated.

In this class, we will be exposed to a variety of playscripts. Some of these plays may confront you about ideas and beliefs that you have long held. That is the nature of art. If you open your mind to the new experiences, you may find yourself exposed to new paradigms that will enlighten you. Social justice is one of MSU's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment. Be civil at all times and focus on understanding the material being discussed. As we discuss theatre, let us do so in a non-confrontational way. A university is a place in which we are each encouraged to grow to our ultimate potential – disparaging comments or words intended to harm others (as a group or individual) are inappropriate in the twenty-first century and will not be tolerated in this classroom. Please consider this carefully. If you are easily offended, particularly by discussing things with which you do not agree morally or philosophically, this class may not be for you. The appropriate time to withdraw is now.

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!

Computer use during class is strictly banned. Every study on the subject shows that the process of writing, not typing, helps us retain the information.

No food is allowed in the classroom for any reason.

You may not bring any beverage other than water into the classroom. If you bring water, it must be in a sports top bottle.

In short: Be on time. Be awake. Be prepared. Be engaged. Ask questions. Study. Come ready to be a scholar or stay home.

Departmental Policies

Mental and Physical Health

We are living in a world with increasing stress which is challenging for everyone. Each of us responds differently to this stress and sometimes we need assistance in maneuvering life. As soon as you start to feel that you are not coping/dealing with life as well as you have in the past, the need to reach out for assistance or just someone outside your everyday life to speak with, please reach out to any of the theatre faculty. We are all concerned that we each be as mentally well as possible. We can listen, offer our assistance, but more importantly, we can help you get the professional assistance that you need. The Psychology Clinic and the Counseling Center are services that you have already paid for with your fees and so are no cost for you to use!

As theatricians, we are heavily reliant on our bodies for our artform. Whether we need the stamina to put in an eight-hour day in a studio/shop or the strength to move/dance/sing/act in rehearsal and performance, we need our bodies to be the best they can be.

Student fees have paid for and created the Wellness Center (<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/wellness-center/index.php>) with lots of free classes and many hours of access to a wide range of machines. There is no charge to use the Wellness Center.

Let's all do our best to be as healthy, mentally and physically, as we can!

Infection/Illness Control

Even the best and most careful of us get sick. In order not to infect others, the professor asks you to zoom in to class if you are ill. If you need to zoom, you should contact the professor at least 30 minutes prior to the start of class. If you zoom in, you are required to meet the following requirements:

- Have a working video camera
- Have a stable internet connection
- Have a working microphone
- Have a quiet space in which to zoom
- Have the video camera and microphone on the entire class
- Have at least high visibility lighting (ring light is ideal)

Should the class need to move to remote, all the above requirements are needed by every student.

We are implementing the following plans for safe art creation/learning when cast, crew, staff, or faculty become sick or ill during the production process. We continue to monitor and follow guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Department of Health (TDH) for all illnesses that may occur.

If any cast, crew, staff, or faculty are showing the following signs of illness, they should not be involved in any processes in the theatre spaces:

- vomiting and/or diarrhea, either active or within the last 12 hours
- fever over 100.4 degrees
- a cough that disrupts normal activity (breathing, speaking, singing)
- pinkeye, or any yellow/green discharge from eyes

If participants are required to stay home because of the above symptoms, they are welcome to return to rehearsals after the following has occurred:

- Vomiting, etc.: 12 hours after the last occurrence of illness
- Fever: 24 hours after the last instance
- Pinkeye: participant is no longer symptomatic
- Cough: normal activity can be maintained comfortably for the participant

Please keep in mind that sickness tends to sweep through our department extremely fast. Do not try to muscle through when you are feeling ill, let us know and we will make accommodations for you. You are also always welcome to wear a mask at rehearsals if that would make you feel more comfortable.

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) exist 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 an 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](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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 WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor’s***

explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstutexas.edu.

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at
https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Grade Appeal Process

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

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.