



## Course Syllabus: Theatre History 1

Fain College of Fine Arts  
THEA 2433 Section 101  
Fall 2019

### Contact Information

Instructor: Elizabeth Lewandowski  
Office: Fain Fine Arts B204  
Office hours: TR 9-11 am, WF 8-9 am, studio hours  
Office phone: (940) 397-4392  
Cell Phone: (940) 613-6659  
E-mail: Elizabeth.lewandowski@msutexas.edu

### Course Description

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

- A) Understand some possible origins of theatre (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)
- B) Understand the development of the playwright from the Classical Greek through the Elizabethan period (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)
- C) Understand the development of the actor from the Classical Greek through the Elizabethan period (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)
- D) Understand the development of design from the Classical Greek through the Elizabethan period (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)
- E) Understand the development of the director from the Classical Greek through the Elizabethan period (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)
- F) Understand the cultural, social and political aspects of a particular period and their influence on the theatre (Knowledge of Development of Theatre)

### Instructional Materials

Reading assignments (posted on D2L)  
Copies of the following plays (posted on D2L)  
*Lysistrata*  
*The Wakefield Second Shepherd's Play*  
*Everyman*  
*Servant of Two Masters*  
Shakespeare play (selected by the class)  
Additional video viewings from Digital Theatre + and youtube.com

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2018-19](#)

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).

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

Students are expected to know and understand what constitutes plagiarism.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

## Grading

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (10 at 20 pts each)	200
Test 1	100
Test 2	100
Final Exam	150
Attendance & Participation	100
Final Exam	150
Group presentation	50
Research paper/project	150
Total Points	1000

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

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this course will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They will simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the professor who may recommend tutoring.

## Homework

Homework will be collected at the beginning of class on the day when it is due. If the student is unable to attend class, the professor must receive the work by email prior to the start of class or the student may send the work with another student. The professor does not accept late work. Period.

## Quizzes

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class at the discretion of the professor. Students who arrive late will have only the time remaining for those students who arrived on time. Students who arrive after the quiz has been collected will not have the opportunity to take the quiz at another time. Period.

## Group Presentation

In small groups assigned by the professor, you will give staged readings from significant scenes from the plays discussed in class. The cutting will be assigned by the professor as will the roles in the scenes. Each group will be expected to spend Adequate time outside of class preparing the staged reading to ensure a clear understanding of the script by both the performers and the

audience. One member of the group will be assigned the role of dramaturg and will present a brief description of the play and an overview of the script up to the point of the cutting.

### Research Paper/Project

Each student will be responsible for a) writing a research paper on a theatre artist(s) or play from one of the periods studied in class, performing a memorized 30 minutes scene with additional class member(s) or 3) created a design for one of the plays in the class. Details for each of these possibilities will be posted in D2L. A suggested list of theatre artist(s) and plays will be posted on D2L by the professor. Due dates are listed below.

September 6	Option chosen and topic/play title
October 9	Outline, scene cutting with parts identified, or concept
October 28	Draft of paper, memorized rehearsal with professor or sketches
December 2	Finish paper, performance or design package

### Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments will not be given.

### Make Up Work/Tests

Make up work will only be allowed in the case of the tests. In order for the student to make up this work, the professor must receive 1) receive an email from the student prior to the beginning of class and 2) a doctor's note excusing the student from class for the day of the test.

### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28, 2019

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 30, 2019

Deadline to file for May graduation: October 7, 2019

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 28, 2019 4:00 pm

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

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the class. Attendance is critical as much of the course will be participatory. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Students arriving ten or more minutes late will receive an absence. After five unexcused absences, the student will be dropped from the course. The professor's records will stand as evidence of absences. Note: work, studying for other classes, helping a friend, and fights with a significant other are not examples of excused absences.

### Instructor Class Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> 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 conceal carry in theatre classes/rehearsals.

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the professor. Texting will not be tolerated. You will receive an unexcused absence for that day.

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! To that end, when reading a chapter, write out (to be turned in) three open-ended questions regarding the reading.

No food is allowed in the classroom for any reason.

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

### 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 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 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 professor.

