



Course Syllabus: Independent Study : Theatre History III
Fain College of Fine Arts
THEA 4503 Section 201
Spring 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Elizabeth Lewandowski

Office: FFA 204

Office hours: M 1:00-3:00 pm and T-F 9:00-11:00 am To make an appointment, go to elizabethlewandowski@youcanbook.me and book an appointment.

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Course Description

A study of selected acclaimed plays from the contemporary theatre, including, but not limited to, musical theatre, African-American and other minority drama, and other significant dramatic works. Also includes discussion of leading theatrical figures and movements that have defined the contemporary theatre and inspired avant garde theatrical production.

Course Objectives

To comprehend important developments in Western drama that have occurred since the mid-20th century (Departmental Learning Outcome: Knowledge of development of theatre).

- To experience a number of plays that illustrate these developments and to analyze these plays both orally and in writing (Departmental Learning Outcome: Knowledge of development of theatre).
- To articulate the impact of important writers and other theatrical personages who have shaped the contemporary theatre (Departmental Learning Outcome: Knowledge of development of theatre).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

There are no required books for this class. All plays will be provided by the professor.

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Table 1:

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (8 at 30 pts each)	240
Script Analyses (8 at 40 pt each)	320
Participation	100
Midterm Exam	140
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

In the professional world, not showing up on time and missing deadlines means getting fired. Work is due on time.

- Spelling and grammar count. Grades will be reduced for spelling and grammar errors.
- Lectures and class activities expand upon the reading assignments. If you fail to do the reading before class, you will be lost!
- You must complete all papers and tests in order to pass the class

Office Hours

Office hours will be held online, unless absolutely necessary. Students can book an appointment using elizabethlewandowski@youcanbook.me. When booking the appointment, be sure to include your Skype name. At the appointment time, the professor will initiate a Skype meeting with the student. Students are also welcome to call or text the professor after 8:00 am and before 10:00 pm on weekdays.

Quizzes

There will be eight scheduled quizzes. The dates and content are listed in the Class Schedule. Quizzes will be taken on D2L. The student may attempt the quiz as many times as desired to achieve the highest grade desired. The pool of questions is larger than the number of quiz questions, so the second (third, etc) attempt at the quiz may have different questions.

Exams

There will be both a midterm exam and a final exam. The essay question portion of both exams will be submitted to D2L at or before the time of the exam. Exams will be taken on D2L. The student will need to use their camera to show that their phone is at a distance and leave the camera on, focused on their face for the entirety of the exam. Right click will be disabled during the exams.

Projects Required

For each play discussed in class, there will be a script analysis written by the student. The analysis will be answers to a series of questions provided by the professor on D2L. The analysis will vary from play to play, so students should ensure that they are using the correct analysis.

Extra Credit

The professor does not offer extra credit.

Late Work

The professor does not generally accept late work. If, however, the student is out sick for an extended period of time, the student has the responsibility to contact the professor regarding work that was missed.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 13, 2021

Deadline to file for graduation: February 15 for May graduates.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 23 4:00 pm

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 for which you are responsible. 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.

If you are ill, notify the professor before class begins and you will receive an excused absence. If you test positive for Covid-19, you will be required to self-quarantine for two weeks. If this happens, please notify the professor immediately so that a conversation can be held regarding work due during that period.

If you need to miss class due to a religious holiday, please see the professor as far in advance as possible. If you need to miss class due to university-sponsored events such as field trips and sports, please see the professor as far in advance as possible. You will be required to complete the assigned work on or before the due date, and you will be required to submit an official form from the university before your absence. Please note that work, non-emergency medical and dental appointments, hangovers, intramural games, visitors from out of town, fixing your roommate's computer, fraternity/sorority events, arguments with boyfriends/girlfriends and studying for other classes do **NOT** constitute excused absences.

Theatre Department Policy on Attendance as Related to COVID-19

During the pandemic, the Theatre Faculty recognize that students may be exposed to, concerned about exposure to or infected with COVID-19. The MSU-Texas Theatre Faculty are committed to a positive educational environment and recognize that both the faculty and the students must work together to ensure that learning takes place. Beginning January 2021 and until the pandemic ends and in accordance with university policies, the Theatre Department will be instating the following student policies regarding COVID-19 exposure and infection.

- COVID-19 Probable Exposure On-Campus: If the student was unknowingly exposed on-campus to a student who tests positive for COVID-19, the student will be notified by MSU and expected to quarantine for 10 days. The student will immediately notify their professors (in writing) and arrange for remote learning access during that period. Students who miss class without notifying the professor will receive an unexcused absence.
- COVID-19 Possible Exposure: If the student suspects that they were exposed to COVID-19, either on or off campus, the student should quarantine for 10 days. The student will immediately notify their professors (in writing) and arrange for remote learning access during that period. Students who miss class without notifying the professor will receive an unexcused absence.

- COVID-19 Infection: If the student tests positive to COVID-19, the student should immediately notify their professor (in writing). Professors will work with the student to accommodate classwork/attendance as needed or on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate actions faculty members could take include: the student attending classes virtually while quarantined, late assignment or test submissions, or accommodating the necessary suspension of classwork until the student tests negative. Best practices state that the student should not return to a face-to-face setting until such time as they have received a negative COVID-19 test.

In short, unless a student tests positive for COVID-19 and is too sick to attend class remotely, students who are in quarantine (have been exposed to but not tested positive to COVID-19) will receive an unexcused absence for any class that is not attended either remotely or face-to-face.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an 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 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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Instructor Class Policies - Covid-19 Mitigation

As part of the mitigation of Covid-19, MSU Texas has instituted the following guidelines:

- Masks are required at all times on campus unless a) the student is in their residential room and b) the professor/staff member is alone in their office.
- Wash hands frequently with soapy water (soap and water) for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover mouth with tissues whenever sneezing, and discard used tissues in the trash. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into elbow or upper sleeve, not into hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Refrain from shaking hands.
- Employees and students should avoid gathering in groups of more than 30 individuals; group size limits are subject to change in accordance with state

and local guidelines. Group meetings and conferences should be conducted virtually.

- Maintain social distancing, to the greatest extent possible, of 6 feet between individuals.

In addition, this class will:

- Ensure the desks and seats are safe. In order to do this, when each student arrives and at the end of class, the professor will spray down the surfaces using the cleaning product provided and the student will wipe down the desk surface and chair. To allow time at the end of class, the professor will end class five minutes early. Students are encouraged to provide their own disposable/washable gloves if concerned about contact with the cleaning fluid.
- Use assigned seats. The university has asked that all professors use assigned seating and take attendance each day in order to allow contact tracing if/when a student becomes ill with Covid-19.
- Be divided into groups. Every student will attend one day a week, as assigned by the professor. These class meetings will cover student questions, discussions, student presentations, etc. The lectures and PowerPoints will be available on D2L at least one week prior to the day the student is required to have read/watched the material. The professor recommends that students use the class time on days not in attendance to read/watch the material on D2L.
- Not touch the door handle to the classroom. In order to assist with proper air circulation, the door will remain open as much as outside noise allows.
- Not move the desks from their current position! The desks are currently spaced at 6 feet apart and should not under any circumstances be moved.
- Enter the classroom one person at a time. During this time, the short hallway outside the classroom is designated as a space for one person at a time. Please line up in the Bea Wood Studio and enter the classroom one at a time.

The professor further recommends:

- Student use the restroom prior to coming to campus. While hand sanitizer, masks and hand washing will help us be safe, restrooms are going to easily become a transmission vector.
- 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!
- Do not hang out around the classroom or doors (either inside or out). Sitting around with friends, classmates, etc. in a small space gives Covid-19 the opportunity to spread easily.

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. 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.

Cell phone use in class is prohibited. If your cell phone goes off during a class you may be asked to leave the classroom and receive an absence for the day. No texting. Again, you may be asked to leave the classroom. Please don't make this an issue, just turn off the phone during our 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 placed on being this class.

Federal privacy law prohibits the professor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professor's general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

In short: **Be on time. Be awake. Be prepared. Be engaged. Ask questions. Study. Come ready to become 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 instructor.