

SYLLABUS

THIS IS OUR CONTRACT. PLEASE READ IT AND KEEP IT HANDY!

Course: THEA 375, Theatre History 1: Origins of Theatre to the Renaissance
Fall 2009, 11-11:50 am, MWF, Porterfield Room 172

Professor: Jennifer Juul

Office Location: Porterfield 238

Office Hours: 2-3 pm, Monday – Friday. Also by appointment.

Contact: jjjuul@radford.edu, telephone/voicemail 831-5207 (email is better than voicemail)

Required books—these are the same for THEA 376:

- Wilson and Goldfarb, *Living Theatre*, 5th edition
- Worthen, *Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*, 5th edition. Both books are ridiculously expensive, but you need them. Please, no substitutions; other texts of these plays are available, but may be in the wrong edition or translation. Copies will be available to borrow from the instructor in case of financial issues at the beginning of the semester. I advise against sharing textbooks.
- Access to WebCT, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Reader

Course Goals:

- To trace and recount important events and developments in the history of world theatre;
- To learn how theatre got to this point;
- To make sense of lives and cultures that differ from our own;
- To read, envision, and analyze historically significant plays;
- To discover the relevance of theatre's past to our life today;
- To achieve a major research project;
- To gain insight into how theatre and society have influenced one another.

We will study the following plays:

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| The Oresteia/Aeschylus | Wakefield 2 nd Shepherds Play/anonymous |
| Cyclops/Euripides | Everyman/anonymous |
| The Menaechmus Brothers/Plautus | The Dentist/Commedia dell'Arte Scenario |
| The Message and Karna's Burden/Bhasa | The Tempest/Shakespeare |
| Matsukaze/Kan'ami (Noh) | Life is a Dream/Calderon |
| Dulcitius/Hrosvitha | |

We will study these areas and eras:

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| Theatre's Western & Non-Western origins | Noh Theatre |
| Ancient Greek Theatre | Medieval European Theatre |
| Ancient Roman Theatre | English Renaissance Theatre |
| Sanskrit Drama | Spanish Golden Age Theatre |
| Theatre research & historiography | |

Friendly disclaimer:

THEA 375 and 376 have a heavy workload, are writing-intensive, and are intended for juniors and seniors only. This course is not for everyone. If you are looking for a General Education requirement and you are not passionate about reading plays and writing papers, please take THEA 100 or THEA 180 instead!

Grades:

You earn an A by accumulating 900 or more points by the end of the semester and not missing more than 3 classes. Each assignment has a potential point value. Your goal is to earn as many points as possible. You can keep track of your points on WebCT or by adding up the scores on every paper you get back. Class participation is not a part of your grade, but I hope you will not keep silent.

Assignments and their Point Value**Weight of Grades**

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| Play Quizzes (320 pts, 40 pts. each) -On the plays you are assigned to read for the class. Many of the plays are in the <i>Wadsworth</i> text; a few are on WebCt. I assume that you will read the entire play and understand the plot/character relationships/themes and that if we discuss the play's historical context in class, you will know it for the quiz. Quizzes occur at the beginning of the class period. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences or lateness. Quiz format will vary. | 32% |
| Homework (100 pts) -Choose 3 of the first 7 chapters in the Wilson textbook. Read each chapter and create 6 multiple-choice test questions. (Please feel free to read together outside of class but DO NOT CREATE THE QUESTIONS TOGETHER.) | 10% |
| History midterm (100 pts) -Covering Greek, Roman, and Indian/non-Western theatre history; multiple choice questions. | 10% |
| Research paper (340 pts) - Develop a research question starting with one of the plays in the Wadsworth Anthology that was written prior to 1650 CE. Feel free to suggest early plays not in the anthology. Create a proposal (15 points), references page (60), outline (85), and final draft (180). We will discuss and work on the research paper extensively in class. The length is a MINIMUM of 10 typed pages in Times New Roman 12 point font, using either MLA or Chicago Style. | 34% |
| History final (140pts) -Not cumulative; covering Noh, Medieval, English Renaissance, and Spanish Golden Age theatre history; format to be announced. | 14% |
| Semester Total (1000 pts) | 100% |

Philosophy on grades:

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| A = 90% and higher | An A is excellent work. In tests and quizzes, 90% or more correct test answers is excellent work. In writing, an 'A' means going way beyond what is required; thinking deeply and taking risks; offering detailed analyses; using top-notch grammar, spelling, punctuation, and clarity; demonstrating insight and imagination. The word "awesome" is so overused today. But if the work truly inspires "awe," then it earns an A. |
| B = 80-89% | B = above the norm. A grade of 'B' is a success—going beyond the basics in a measurable way; doing a little more than just getting the material under one's belt. |
| C = 70-79% | A 'C' is an average grade. Earning a C usually means one of two things: either 1) the work meets the basic requirements of an assignment or quiz, but doesn't go beyond what is needed; or 2) the work is spotty or incomplete, but has flashes of brilliance. |
| D = 60-69% | The grade required to pass the course is a 'D,' but work that earns a D is below average or incomplete. For each assignment, you will hear the expectations/criteria and be able to ask questions. 'D' work doesn't meet the expectations laid out beforehand. |
| F = Below 60% | There are three reasons that could result in earning an 'F': not doing the work, being absent 7 times unexcused, or violating the Honor Code. |
| --These are my grading policies; they are provided here in an effort to communicate clearly about the standards used in this class. Each professor is different, so if you have a grade question, please ask!-- | |

Policies**1. Optional Extra Credit Assignment:**

A Glossary, due by the last Friday of classes. Choose any unfamiliar word from the dialogue of the plays you read and provide the applicable and appropriate dictionary definition. Cite the source where you found the definition. Each word correctly defined and cited will earn 1 point. If a definition is not cited, it will not earn credit. In addition, if you use the word correctly in a new sentence you will earn 2 points. You can do up to 50 words and earn up to 100 points.

2. **Turning in assignments:** Homework and research paper assignments (including your proposal, references, outline, and final draft) will be eligible to earn full credit if submitted on time at the beginning of class. You are welcome to turn things in by e-mail, but the WebCT dropbox will not be activated. Assignments submitted after the due date will lose 10% per late weekday (Mon-Friday). Quizzes and assignments will only be made up at my discretion. You are welcome to take quizzes and tests early if you make prior arrangements.
3. **Classroom etiquette:** Please turn off your laptops, cell phones, ipods, and other gadgets and put them out of sight before class begins. Please look at the schedule and come to class with the right book, prepared, and on time. If a quiz or homework assignment is due, please bring that book to class on that day. Please keep all of your notes including the syllabus and schedule—there may not always be an in-class reminder of due dates for assignments. Please be courteous and respect others even if you do not agree with their opinions. Please contribute to our discussions and give others the same chance. Please arrange your schedule so as not to arrive late or leave early.
4. **Attendance policy:** This class requires you to attend all class meetings. **For each unexcused absence after the first 3 'freebies,' your grade will drop by 100 points or one letter grade.** Please note that quizzes and tests will occur at the beginning of class. I may excuse an absence under certain circumstances and I may ask for written documentation regarding the reason for the absence. Please do not come to class if you have flu symptoms, but try to save those freebies for emergencies. *It is crucial to look after your health this year.* Please see me with any questions about unexcused absences. Notify me by email in advance regarding conferences you plan to attend, even if you think I already know about it. Theatre & Cinema majors: if you miss class during production weeks, I will notify your director and/or shop supervisor.
5. **Students with disabilities:** If you are eligible for classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO) to get the ball rolling. The DRO is located in Rm. 32, Tyler Hall. Phone is 831-6350. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper DRO forms and meet with me during the first two weeks of the semester.
6. **Honor code:** All of your class work must be yours and yours alone. This is such an important issue. Although theatre artists often work together on productions, the written assignments in this class are NOT group assignments. You are welcome to read the plays together, bounce ideas off of your classmates or teachers from time to time, but once you put the pen to paper or the fingers to the keyboard, you have to work alone. If you include material from the internet but do not cite your sources, that is *internet plagiarism*. Not sure how to cite your sources? I can help. If I discover an academic integrity violation, I am obligated to report it in writing and take the appropriate action beginning with a grade penalty. Any student who has questions or has witnessed academic dishonesty is invited to talk with me confidentially. The official RU notice is: "By accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the University Honor Code without compromise or exception. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code, which reads in part as follows: *I shall uphold the values and ideals of Radford University by engaging in responsible behavior and striving always to be accountable for my actions while holding myself and others to the highest moral and ethical standards of academic integrity and good citizenship as defined in the Standards of Student Conduct.*"
7. This class will use WebCT online. If you have never used WebCT, please contact me for a tutorial. Your grades, homework, paperwork, schedule, and some of the readings will be posted there. Readings are posted as pdf documents.