

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

DR 2080 (A2): Western Theatre History 1 – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Misha Albert
OFFICE: J220
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 10:00
AM- 11:00 AM or by
Appointment

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course explores the theory and context of European theatre from ancient Greece to the Renaissance. Topics include setting the stage, development and craft of mis-en-scene and the relationship between stage and the audience.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: None

Students are responsible for all fees associated with ProctorU, a live proctoring service for online exams. Fees are paid when you schedule your exams through ProctorU.

Pricing per exam is as follows:
60 minutes or less - \$16 USD



61-120 minutes – \$25 USD

121 – 180 minutes – \$31 USD

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have gained an understanding of the historical background of Western theatre from theatre texts of Classical Greece, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.
2. Have gained an understanding of the forms of Western theatre from theatre texts of Classical Greece, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.
3. Have explored the historical contexts of theatre in these periods
4. Have analyzed contemporary relationships to theatre through analysis of these historical periods
5. Have gained a critical understanding of theatre through debating and applying theories of performances to the works studied.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation (including discussion and presentations: 20%

Written/Oral presentations: 35%

Mid-term: 20%

Final: 20%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit 1: Origins and Ancient Greek Theatre (Weeks 1–6)

- **Week 1** – Theatre Before "Theatre": Ritual, Myth, and Performance
- **Week 2** – The Structure of the Greek Theatre and Festival
- **Week 3** – Aeschylus and the Birth of Tragedy
- **Week 4** – Sophocles and the Tragic Hero
- **Week 5** – Euripides and the Questioning of Tragedy
- **Week 6** – Greek Old Comedy: Aristophanes

Unit 2: Hellenistic and Roman Theatre (Weeks 7–9)

- **Week 7** – Hellenistic Theatre and the Transition to Rome
- **Week 8** – Roman Comedy: Plautus and Terence
- **Week 9** – Roman Tragedy, Spectacle, and the Decline of Formal Theatre

Unit 3: Medieval Theatre (Weeks 10–13)

- **Week 10** – The Church and the Rebirth of Drama: Liturgical Drama
- **Week 11** – Mystery and Miracle Plays: The Cycle Dramas
- **Week 12** – Morality Plays and Allegorical Drama
- **Week 13** – Secular Medieval Entertainment: Farce, Interludes, and Traveling Performers

Unit 4: Threshold of the Renaissance (Weeks 14–15)



- **Week 14** – Italian Humanism and the Revival of Classical Staging
- **Week 15** – Synthesis: From Sacred Space to the Proscenium

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Students are expected to be fully prepared for class having done the reading assigned.
- Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Missing classes will seriously impact student ability to succeed in the course.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day.
- This class is remote so I will request that screens are on and you are present during the prescribed class period.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

USING PROCTORU:

This course uses ProctorU Live for online exams. To utilize this service, you are required to complete the following steps:

- Create a ProctorU account by clicking the ProctorU link in the course.
- Download and install the Guardian Web Browser, Google Chrome, and the ProctorU extension.
- Schedule each exam at least 3 days (72 hours) in advance. If you miss this deadline, you cannot take the exam.
- Pay for the proctoring service. The fees are exclusively your responsibility and in no event shall be the responsibility of Northwestern Polytechnic.

For more detailed instructions [click here](#), and for video instructions [click here](#).

Before each exam, you must complete a room scan with your web camera, during which you will show your surroundings to a live proctor.

The invigilator will ask to view (but not collect or store) your student identification to verify your identity and will remotely access your computer to unlock the exam. When monitoring your actions via video streaming, the invigilator may possibly record your actions if they suspect academic integrity behavioural issues. You will be verbally notified if/when recording begins.

The collection of and access to the personal information listed above is permitted under subsection 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25, which states, "No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body." In addition, subsection 39(4) states, "A public body may use personal information only to the extent necessary to enable the public body to carry out its purpose in a reasonable manner."

Records Retention: Any video records of you created by ProctorU will be kept by ProctorU for a maximum of 7 days in order to make a decision about any possible academic integrity infraction, after which time it shall be permanently deleted. All other personal information collected and stored by ProctorU within your profile account will be permanently deleted if the account has not been used after one year.

Consent to Store Personal Information Outside Canada

ProctorU is an American company. An agreement is in place between ProctorU and Northwestern Polytechnic by which ProctorU will take reasonable steps to protect your personal information from unauthorized access and disclosure. Information about how ProctorU protects your privacy can be found in their [Privacy Policy](#).

By using the ProctorU service via Northwestern Polytechnic, you consent to the storage of and access to your personal information outside of Canada.

This consent is in effect from the day you register with ProctorU and expires one year after completion of your exam.



Additional privacy and liability information regarding the use of ProctorU is available on the NWP website.