



**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**  
**COURSE OUTLINE – DR2080**  
**THEATRE HISTORY 1**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Annie Smith      **PHONE:** 2882  
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**OFFICE**  
**HOURS:** T, R, 16:00 – 17:00

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** DR1020

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** Wadsworth Anthology of Drama, Brief 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

**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 Mise-en-scene and of the relationship between the stage and the audience.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 45

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture

**OBJECTIVES:**

The development of European theatre will be approached through reading and discussing plays from different historical periods beginning with the Comedy and Tragedy of the Golden Age of Greece, the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages, to the Renaissance. Plays from different European

countries will be considered (some in translation), paying attention to the political events of the times, social customs, literary trends, and theatre architecture and technology. Students will be expected to do presentations in class, write a research paper, as well as smaller written assignments, and write a midterm and a final exam. Attendance at live theatre performance is anticipated.

Students upon completion of this course 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 performance to the works studied

### **TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UL**

**\*\* 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.**

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

Class participation (including discussion and presentations) 20%, written assignments 35%. Midterm exam 20%. Final Exam 25%. Overdue assignments will be penalized 5% for each day late up to a maximum of 5 (working) days (25%).

### **EXAMINATIONS: Midterm and Final exams.**

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Theatre performance attendance. Dress Rehearsal attendance is free. If students cannot attend a dress rehearsal they will be required to pay the student admission fee for a scheduled performance. More than 20% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in

which case a doctor's letter may be required.

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to pages 49-50 of the College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Wk	Month	Date	Reading	Assign. Due	Focus
1	Sept	7			Intro Class: overview of the course and discussion of the relationship of theatre to society
		9	Wadsworth 1-8		Continued discussion of theatre & society – theatre structures
2		14	Wadsworth 11-22		Discussion – Classical Athens – theatre archeology
		16	Wadsworth 77-85		Discussion - Aristotle' Poetics. Library research workshop.  <b><i>Research Paper topic assigned.</i></b>
Attend Dress Rehearsal for <b><i>And Up They Flew</i></b>					
3		21	Wadsworth 43-58	<b>Presentation 1 - Medea</b>	Discussion: Medea, Euripides, Tragedy
		23			Discussion: Medea
4		28	Wadsworth 59-76	<b>Presentation 2 - Lysistrata</b>	Discussion: Lysistrata, Comedy, Artisophanes
		30		<b>Response Paper for AUTF</b>	Discussion: Lysistrata

5	Oct	5  7	Wadsworth 145-top151		Lecture: Roman Theatre  Discussion: Medieval Theatre including Pantomime.
6		12  14	Wadsworth 170-180		Discussion: Everyman  <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
7		16  21	Wadsworth 151-169		Discussion: Renaissance Theatre in England  <i>Field Trip to U Leth (3 days)</i>
8		26  28	Wadsworth 229-257	<b>Presentation 3 – The Tempest</b>	Discussion: The Tempest  Discussion: The Tempest
9	Nov	2  4	Wadsworth 263-276  Wadsworth 277-303	<b>Research Paper Due</b>	Discussion: Theatre in Spain's Golden Age  Discussion: Life is a Dream
10		9  11		<b>Presentation 4 – Life is a Dream</b>	Discussion: Life is a Dream  <i>Remembrance Day Holiday</i>
11		16  18	Wadsworth 304-312		Lecture: Commedia dell'arte.  Discussion: French Renaissance Theatre to Moliere
12		23  25	Wadsworth 313-333	<b>Presentation 5 - Tartuffe</b>	Discussion: Tartuffe  Discussion: Tartuffe
13		30	Wadsworth 369-377		Discussion: Loa to the Divine Narcissus  Discussion: connecting themes and

	Dec	2			ideas
14		7			Class review for Final Exam