

IAH 241D:005 –THEATRE AND SOCIETY IN THE WEST

COURSE SYLLABUS

SAMPLE

M W 10:20A.M. – 12:10P.M.

CLASSES HELD IN: FAIRCHILD THEATRE (AUDITORIUM)

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GOALS OF INTEGRATIVE STUDIES IN ARTS AND HUMANITIES:

Integrative Studies at MSU seeks to assist students to become more familiar with ways of knowing in the arts and humanities and to be more knowledgeable and capable in a range of intellectual and expressive abilities. IAH courses encourage students to engage critically with their own society, history, and culture(s); they also encourage students to learn more about the history and culture of other societies. They focus on key ideas and issues in human experience; encourage appreciation of the roles of knowledge and values in shaping and understanding human behavior; emphasize the responsibilities and opportunities of democratic citizenship; highlight the value of the creative arts of literature, theater, music, and arts; and alert us to important issues that occur among peoples in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Artistic creativity seen through the prism of theatre, presented in historical context. Influences from art, literature, music, and religion. Focus on translation of social visions into dramatic art. Plays and themes variable by term.

COURSE FOCUS:

The History and Practice of Theater in the Western World over time.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of theatre and its relationship to society.
 - a. Identify the impact of society on performance practices.
 - b. Identify technological developments that influenced performance.
 - c. Discuss the impact of society on dramatic themes and presentation.
2. Integrate the arts and humanities into an understanding and appreciation of theatre.
 - a. Grow through an exploration of the creative process of theatre.
 - b. Rethink creating with unique methods of observation and abstraction.
 - c. Explore the translation of social visions into dramatic art.
3. Analyze the spectrum of performance styles and genres.
 - a. Plotting the progression (or development) of performance in a historical context.
 - b. Discover cultural elements that influence genres and styles in theatre.
 - c. Discuss the perils and rewards of art-making, artistic license and interpretation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- IAH 241D Course Pack (including plays) (Available at Collegeville Textbook Co.)
- i>clicker
- *Additional readings, dance performance videos, music recordings and art works, will be provided to the class via ANGEL.*

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE:

- ❖ *The Wizard of Oz* (Feb. 18-20 & Feb. 23-27)
 - By L. Frank Baum with Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg
 - The Fairchild Theatre
 - *Students Tickets \$15.00:* Tickets are available from the Wharton Center Box Office or 1.800.WHARTON or www.whartoncenter.com
- ❖ *The Grapes of Wrath* (April 6-10):
 - Based on the novel by John Steinbeck; Adapted by Frank Galati
 - The Concert Auditorium
 - *Students Tickets \$10.00:* Tickets are available from the Wharton Center Box Office or 1.800.WHARTON or www.whartoncenter.com

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

- ❖ Gibaldi, Joseph, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th Edition

COURSE EVALUATION

Procedures for Accomplishing Objective:

1. Thoughtful and creative completion of class assignments.
2. Applied understanding of the terms and theory covered in readings and presentations. This is accomplished through postings, papers and related assignments.

Requirements of Students:

1. Active participation following each presentation. Participation involves posting to discussion boards as assigned.
2. **NO** late papers, posting or projects will be permitted. **NO** make-up dates will be permitted due to the process oriented nature of the course.
3. Successful completion of writings, papers and projects.
4. Respect, support, and encouragement of classmates through participation in discussion postings.

You, the student, will be held accountable for keeping up with class assignments and projects. Deadlines detailed below.

Web-enhanced Learning: For those of you unfamiliar with online or blended learning, the onus is on the student to keep up with assignments and participate in postings according to deadlines. The benefit of online learning is your ability to work at your convenience and without distraction. The downside is that specific questions or concerns may not be addressed as in a

regular classroom on a regular basis. Your learning and study practices may be challenged through online courses, but through diligence and adaptation, you may find this form of education a perfect match for you. The best part of this process is that we **DO** indeed get to meet on a regular basis for field trips and feedback discussions.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

- There are a total of 400 points possible for the course.
- Each assignment grade is evaluated on three criteria: “application of course materials”, “quality of work”, and “completion of work.”
- TAs will be involved in ANGEL creation and maintenance, in-class recitations and break-out sessions and grading.
- Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

Homework Assignments and Projects

(***Additional guidelines and grading rubrics will be provided during online presentations***):

- Participation 40 Points
 - Grade will be based on online presence and participation in the discussion breakouts in the form of questions, and/or commentary on the readings.
- Critical response essay to *The Wizard of Oz* 35 Points
- Critical response essay to *The Grapes of Wrath* 35 Points
- Quizzes (10 pts. each) 50 Points
- Midterm 60 Points
- Final 80 Points
- ANGEL Postings (12.5 pts. each) 100 Points
 - (150 words) Postings will be assigned according to topics covered in the presentation. You must post one original posting related to the topic.

GRADING SCALE:

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| • 360 – 400 = 4.0 | • 280 – 299 = 2.0 |
| • 340 – 359 = 3.5 | • 260 – 279 = 1.5 |
| • 320 – 339 = 3.0 | • 240 – 259 = 1.0 |
| • 300 – 319 = 2.5 | • Below 240 = 0.0 |

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance is **Mandatory** at all class sessions. Being present and receptive to the information, discussions, and critique sessions presented in class and site visits sessions is essential to the successful completion of the course. More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your semester’s grade by .25 of a grade point. MSU sanctioned or VISA sanctioned absences must be submitted with appropriate documentation (Olin doctor notes do NOT count as excused absences).
- Attendance will be taken at each session using your i>clicker.
- Please be courteous to your instructor and fellow students by arriving on time.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

(*CP indicated Course Pack)

Wk	Date	Day	Topic	Assignment & Points	Location	
1	10-Jan	Mon.	Introduction to Western Theatre		Fairchild	
	12-Jan	Wed.	Experience with Live Performance		Online	
2	17-Jan	Mon.	(No Class Monday MLK)			
	19-Jan	Wed.	World of the Play	Posting #1: World of the Play Read: <i>Medea</i> (CP)	Fairchild	
3	24-Jan	Mon.	Tragedy & Theatre in Ancient Greece		Fairchild	
	26-Jan	Wed.	Discuss <i>Medea</i>	Posting #2: A Modern Tragedy	Fairchild Breakout Sessions	
4	31-Jan	Mon.	Greece & Medieval Religious (Scene from Happy Holy Days)	Posting #3: Response to scene	Fairchild	
	2-Feb	Wed.	Discuss Acting and crossovers of Religion and Theatre	Read: <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (CP)	Fairchild Breakout Session	
5	7-Feb	Mon.	Comedy & Shakespeare		Fairchild	
	9-Feb	Wed.	Discuss <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> & Fight Choreography	Posting #4: Shakespeare Insults	Fairchild Breakout Session	
6	14-Feb	Mon.	Restoration	Read: <i>Country Wife</i> (CP)	Fairchild	
	16-Feb	Wed.	Discuss <i>Country Wife</i> Play, Perform scenes	Posting #5: Fan	Fairchild Breakout Session	
7	21-Feb	Mon.	Theatre and Adaptation		Fairchild	
	23-Feb	Wed.	Go See <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	<u>Critical response essay</u>	NO CLASS	
8	28-Feb	Mon.	Discuss <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>		Fairchild	
	2-Mar	Wed.	MIDTERM		Online	
	3/7 – 3/11		SPRING BREAK			
9	14-Mar	Mon.	Realism	Read: <i>Miss Julie</i> (CP)	Fairchild	
	16-Mar	Wed.	Discuss <i>Miss Julie</i>	Posting #6: What is happening outside of the play?	Fairchild Breakout Session	

10	21-Mar	Mon.	Departures from Realism	Read: <i>The Breasts of Tiresias</i> , <i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> and Kirby <i>Futuristic Performances</i> (CP)	Fairchild
	23-Mar	Wed.	Discuss Selections		Fairchild Breakout Sessions
11	28-Mar	Mon.	Directors Concept	Read: <i>Topdog/Underdog</i> (CP)	Online
	30-Mar	Wed.	Go see <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	<u>Critical response essay</u>	NO CLASS
12	4-Apr	Mon.	Contemporary American Realism		Fairchild
	6-Apr	Wed.	Discuss <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>	Posting #7: Response to <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>	Fairchild Breakout Session
13	11-Apr	Mon.	Dance as Theatre		Fairchild
	13-Apr	Wed.	Dance Demo		Fairchild
14	18-Apr	Mon.	The American Musical	Read: <i>Orestes 2.0</i> (www.charlesmee.com)	Fairchild
	20-Apr	Wed.	Discuss Musicals	Posting #8: MTV and the modern musical	Online
15	25-Apr	Mon.	Post-Modern Theatre: Scenes from <i>References to Salvador Dali Make He Hot</i>		Fairchild
	27-Apr	Wed.	Discuss <i>Orestes 2.0</i>		Fairchild Breakout Session
Final	2-May	Mon.	FINAL		Online

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

1. **Academic Honesty:** Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, **The Center for Integrative Studies - Arts and Humanities** adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in **IAH 241D: 005**. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestyFAQ.html>)

2. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** (from the *Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)*): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("RISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.
3. **Drops and Adds:** The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is **2/3/11**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **3/2/11**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.
4. **Commercialized Lecture Notes:** Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.**
5. **Attendance:** Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.
6. **Internet:** Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.
7. **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the [AFR](#) states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

**Note: The Code of Teaching Responsibility requires instructors who permit students to commercialize their class lecture notes to include a statement in their course syllabi that gives such permission. Absent such permission, students may not do so.

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

At its February 24, 2009 meeting, Academic Council approved a motion from the University Committee on Academic Policy to revise the policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades. This policy is located in the Academic Programs catalog at <https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s534>.