

**THR 813 – PERIOD RESOURCES AND RESEARCH**  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
SAMPLE  
F 9:10 – 12:00  
CLASSES HELD IN: RM. 246 AUD

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OFFICE HRS: M 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
F 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

Methodology used in researching historical customs and artifacts that actors, directors and designers adapt for use in acting styles, scenery, costumes, props, and directing.

**GOALS:**

In this course you will be introduced to periods and styles from the Ancient World to Modern Day. The course will provide you with an expansive pool of resources from which to build your creative portfolio. *Simultaneously*, you will be asked to apply this knowledge to the creation and implementation of projects that communicate period style within the context of *your* own considered expertise and point of view. You will be expected to employ this knowledge and apply it to your art.

- To gain a better understanding of people within their historical and cultural context by looking at the decorative arts surrounding them.
- To better research, evaluate original source material and broaden research skills using both electronic and print resources.
- To develop an appreciation of character and personality as expressed by individuals' choices throughout history.
- To obtain a broad understanding of period style, vocabulary and historical research.
- To compare and contrast cultures' values and historical periods.
- To understand changes in style throughout history and the causes for these changes.
- To increase communication skills through cooperative learning and resource sharing to better convey significant dramaturgical information.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Russell, Douglas A., Period Styles for the Theatre 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Course Packet available at Ned's Bookstore)
- A variety of period-specific plays (to be obtained by the student as required)

**PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:**

*Weekly Quizzes*

*Styles Morgue* (assigned weekly)

- The styles morgue is a means to gain a stronger and more profound understanding of the periods of study. You will gather, analyze and organize PICTORIAL, LITERARY, and CULTURAL ENRICHMENT research pieces.
- These research pieces will serve as information and inspiration for various projects throughout the semester, as well as your career as a theatrical artist.
- Research may be collected from libraries, museums, magazines, web-based searches and other appropriate sources.
- All styles morgues are due DIGITALLY on ANGEL.

### ***Salon Projects***

- You have thirty minutes to create **an event** that immerses the class in the time period on which you are presenting. This can include food, music, poetry, art, fashion, etc. – anything that assists in your creation of **an event** that *accurately* reflects the times.
- You may assign characters (historical or fictional) that must achieve a objective by the end of the event, you may write scenarios that must be fulfilled, you may use dramatic scenes from plays of the period that must convey a cultural happening, you may create a situation on a battlefield that must express an accurate account of times of conflict – whatever you think best exemplifies the nuance(s) of the time.
- Your imagination must be fertile to create a unique and intriguing happening that offers total immersion.

**Midterm** (individual plays to be assigned by instructor): 5 minutes... prepare accordingly.

*Choose from one of the following:*

- 1) Create a thorough scene, costume, lighting or digital design for an assigned play.
- 2) Create a thorough dramaturgical packet for an assigned play.
- 3) Direct and/or act in a fully realized scene from an assigned play.

*Your work must not be conceptual, but rather historically accurate. You may certainly theatricalize your work and offer a strong point of view while remaining accurate to the history of the time period.*

**Final** (individual plays to be assigned by instructor): 10 minutes... prepare accordingly.

*Choose from one of the following:*

- 1) Create a thorough scene, costume, lighting or digital design for an assigned play.
- 2) Create a thorough dramaturgical packet for an assigned play.
- 3) Direct and/or act in a fully realized scene from an assigned play.

*Your work must not be conceptual, but rather historically accurate. You may certainly theatricalize your work and offer a strong point of view while remaining accurate to the history of the time period.*

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

- Attendance is **Mandatory**. Being present and receptive to the information, discussions, and critique sessions presented in class sessions is essential to the successful completion of the course. More than one (**1**) absence will result in the lowering of your semester's grade by .25 of a grade point. *Each additional absence will lower your semester's grade by an additional .25 of a grade point.*
- Attendance will be taken at each session.
- Please be courteous to your instructor and fellow students by arriving on time.

### **SLIDE NOTES:**

- Handouts of PowerPoint lectures will be available on ANGEL before the lecture. If you wish to use handouts for lecture notes you are responsible for printing and bringing them to the lecture. PowerPoint slideshows will also be posted on ANGEL for your reference.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
1	1/14	Discussion of Syllabus and Course Expectations, Preface, Introduction and The Ancient World	Read <i>Preface, Introduction</i> and Ch. 1 for 1/14  Read Ch. 2 for 1/21	
2	1/21	Greek Style	Read Ch. 3 for 1/28	
3	1/28	Roman Style	Read Ch. 4 for 2/4	<b>Go See: HHD</b>
4	2/4	The Medieval World	Read Ch. 5 for 2/11	
5	2/11	Early/High Renaissance Style	Read Ch. 6 for 2/18	
6	2/18	Late Renaissance: Mannerist	Read Ch. 7-8 for 2/25	<b>Go See: Wizard</b>
7	2/25	Baroque		
8	3/4	<b>Midterm</b>		
SB	3/7-3/11	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
9	3/18	<b>EDGES Conference</b>	Read Ch. 9-10 for 3/25	9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. MSU UNION
10	3/25	Restoration and Rococo	Read Ch. 11 for 4/1	
11	4/1	Neoclassic and Empire	Read Ch. 12 for 4/8	<b>Go See: Grapes (opera)</b>
12	4/8	Romanticism	Read Ch. 13 for 4/15	<b>Go See: Grapes (play)</b>
13	4/15	Realism	Read Ch. 14 & 15 for 4/22	
14	4/22	More isms	Read Ch. 16 for 4/29	<b>Go See: Salvador Dali</b>
15	4/29	Post		

**FINAL:** Wednesday, May 4: 7:45-9:45a.m.

\*\*\*Note: We will either expand this time or find an alternative to accommodate the time required for the final presentations.\*\*\*

**GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

- Each assignment grade is evaluated on three criteria: “application of course materials”, “quality of work”, and “completion of work.” Feel free to inquire about your grade standing at anytime.
- Late work will devalue your assignment grade according to the severity of the lateness (instructor purview).
- Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

**% BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:**

*Quizzes - 20%*

*Midterm - 15%*

*Styles Morgue - 25%*

*Salon - 20%*

*Final – 20%*

**GRADING SCALE:**

- |            |   |     |           |   |     |
|------------|---|-----|-----------|---|-----|
| • 93%-100% | = | 4.0 | • 73%-77% | = | 2.0 |
| • 88%-92%  | = | 3.5 | • 68%-72% | = | 1.5 |
| • 83%-87%  | = | 3.0 | • 60%-67% | = | 1.0 |
| • 78%-82%  | = | 2.5 | • 0%-59%  | = | 0.0 |

*Styles Morgue Topics* (subject to change and completely random!)

1. Art (2D & 3D)
2. Agriculture (Landscaping), Climate and Geography
3. Athletics and Sporting
4. Economics
5. Education
6. Pop Culture and Entertainment (other than Theatre... Dance, Music, etc.)
7. Apparel and Textile
8. Food and Cuisine
9. Medicine
10. Playwrights and Plays
11. Philosophy
12. Politics
13. Religion
14. Scientific and Mathematical Advancements
15. Social Mores and Social Structure
16. Writers and Poets

**SALON PROJECT SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

Week	Date	Topic	Creators
<b>1</b>	1/14	<b>No Salon</b>	<b>No Salon</b>
<b>2</b>	1/21	<b>No Salon</b>	<b>No Salon</b>
<b>3</b>	1/28	Greek	Sutton-Smith
<b>4</b>	2/4	Roman	Boulos & Young
<b>5</b>	2/11	Medieval	Davis & Surprenant
<b>6</b>	2/18	<b>No Salon</b>	<b>No Salon</b>
<b>7</b>	2/25	Renaissance	Campbell & Harvey
<b>8</b>	3/4	<b>MIDTERM</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>
<b>SB</b>	3/7-3/11	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>9</b>	3/18	<b>No Salon</b>	<b>No Salon</b>
<b>10</b>	3/25	Baroque	Piper & Rane
<b>11</b>	4/1	Restoration/Rococo	Henderson & Maxin
<b>12</b>	4/8	Neoclassic	Franzen & Hull
<b>13</b>	4/15	Romanticism	Garza & Haskell
<b>14</b>	4/22	Realism	Reynolds & Roberts
<b>15</b>	4/29	<b>No Salon</b>	<b>No Salon</b>

## 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 Department of Theatre** 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](http://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](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in **THR 813 – Period Resources and Research**. 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](http://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

This policy is located in the Academic Programs catalog at

<https://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s534>