

**TH425 THEATRE HISTORY I**  
**Fanuchanan 2025**

**Troy McVey, Professor of Theatre**

Office: EC107G      Hours: M/W 9:30 – 11am and T/TH 11am-12:30pm  
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**Description**

This is a comprehensive survey of Western and Oriental Theater from earliest times to 1700.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have successfully demonstrated the ability to:

1. Analyze a theatrical script for major play arc beats, character development, and production needs;
2. Discuss major texts from classical and neoclassical storytelling canon;
3. Write a short script using classical storytelling techniques; and
4. Describe one non-Western theatre form in detail.

Course SLOs	Fine Arts PLOs	ILOs
Analyze a theatrical script for major play arc beats, character development, and production needs;	<b>PLO1</b> Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists.	<b>ILO1</b> Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving. <b>ILO5</b> Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology <b>ILO6</b> An appreciation of the arts and sciences
Discuss major texts from classical and neoclassical storytelling canon	<b>PLO1</b> Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists.	<b>ILO1</b> Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving. <b>ILO3</b> Effective oral and written communication <b>ILO6</b> An appreciation of the arts and sciences <b>ILO7</b> An interest in personal development and lifelong learning
Write a short script using classical storytelling techniques	<b>PLO4</b> Demonstrate mastery of one artistic skill in public displays and performances using professional production values from coursework.	<b>ILO3</b> Effective oral and written communication <b>ILO4</b> Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context <b>ILO5</b> Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology
Describe one non-Western theatre form in detail	<b>PLO1</b> Using common terms, techniques and methods of expression in the artistic languages of performing and visual arts, analyze the creations and presentations of other artists. <b>PLO3</b> Apply the interrelationship of the arts and its influence in society.	<b>ILO3</b> Effective oral and written communication <b>ILO4</b> Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context <b>ILO6</b> An appreciation of the arts and sciences <b>ILO7</b> An interest in personal development and lifelong learning

## **Participation**

Theatre is a collaborative, participatory art form. You are expected to attend every class meeting and complete the activities each day. After your second absence, 5% will be taken from your overall grade for each consecutive absence, whether excused or unexcused. Three tardies equal an absence.

## **Classical Stories**

we will be reading several plays together this semester taking us through the classical and neoclassical periods. These will be read and discussed in class.

*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

*Medea* by Euripides, Robinson Jeffers translation

*Lysistrata* by Aristophanes

*Doctor Faustus* by Thomas Marlowe

*Hamlet*, a tragedy

*Tartuffe* by Moliere

We will also watch a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, as directed by Julie Taymor. We will discuss this in great detail in terms of its theatrical approach and use of story-telling conventions.

## **Presentations on Non-Western Theatre Forms**

Each student in the class will give a presentation on one of the major non-western theatrical/performative artforms prior to 1700, such as Noh, Kabuki, Bunraku, Chinese Opera, Indonesian puppetry forms, Hawai'ian Hula, and indigenous storytelling in New Zealand. You will prepare a PowerPoint presentation explaining the general context of the major forms of plays in that country/period, the main playwrights, the main plays, major festivals/companies, and prominent characteristics of each period. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes long. You are encouraged (!) to include video clips of plays in the style.

## **Classical Storytelling Project**

Each student will write a ten-minute playscript utilizing the following classical storytelling conventions: two-character rule and a plot structure with beginning/middle/end and following three unities of time, place, and action. The story and diction may be contemporary. The conventions will be classical.

## **Grading**

Grades are earned by a balance of participation and successful completion of course activities.

Participation (33%)

Presentation (33%)

Playscript (33%)

We will discuss, in class, grades earned for each of these elements, as well as overall grade earned, using the descriptions below.

Grade	Points	Description
A+	98 - 100	<b>Outstanding</b> Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	<b>Good</b> Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	<b>Adequate</b> Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
C	70-76	
D	60-69	<b>Deficient</b> Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course that has this course as prerequisite.
F	0-59	<b>Failure</b> Inadequate to receive credits.

### Accommodation

If you are a student with disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. I will receive notification your approved accommodation(s) from the SCAS Accommodations office.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the student code of conduct at UOG. It includes copying exam answers, copying writing without proper citation, paraphrasing another author without proper citation or representing another person's work as if it was your own (see the UOG Student Handbook p. 49). If you are caught plagiarizing (or cheating), the minimum penalty is failure of the project or exam. Severe cases will be turned into the student disciplinary board and may be failed from the course.

### SMOKE-FREE

UOG is a tobacco-free, smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, and for helping make UOG a healthy learning and living environment.

### AI Statement:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student's original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student's endeavors. **Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.**

**Example of attribution language:** "The author generated this text in part with GPT-3, OpenAI's large-scale language-generation model. Upon generating draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their own liking and takes ultimate responsibility for the

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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AUG	14	WED	Course Introductions
AUG	19	MON	Oedipus Rex
AUG	21	WED	Oedipus Rex
AUG	26	MON	Medea
AUG	28	WED	Medea
SEPT	2	MON	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
SEPT	4	WED	Discussion of Classical Storytelling
SEPT	9	MON	Lysistrata
SEPT	11	WED	Lysistrata
SEPT	16	MON	Doctor Faustus
SEPT	18	WED	Doctor Faustus
SEPT	23	MON	Midsummer Night's Dream
SEPT	25	WED	Midsummer Night's Dream
SEPT 30	MON	Watch <i>Complete Works of Shakespeare</i> in Class	
OCT 2	WED	Discuss Shakespeare	
OCT	9	MON	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
OCT	11	WED	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
OCT	14	MON	Hamlet
OCT	16	WED	Hamlet
OCT	21	MON	Hamlet
OCT	23	WED	Tartuffe
OCT	28	MON	Tartuffe
OCT	30	WED	Tartuffe
NOV	4	MON	Workshop Readings of Scripts
NOV	6	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts **PROM PERFORMANCES AT 7PM **
NOV	11	MON	No Class: <i>Veteran's Day</i>
NOV	13	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts ** PROM PERFORMANCES AT 7PM **
NOV	18	MON	Workshop Readings of Scripts
NOV	20	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts ** THANKSGIVING BREAK **
NOV	25	MON	Non-Western Presentations
NOV	27	WED	Non-Western Presentations
DEC	2	MON	Non-Western Presentations
DEC	4	WED	Meetings with Instructor on Scripts

\*\* Final Reading As Per Final Exam Schedule \*\*