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THTR 330H.01: Theatre History I

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THEATRE HISTORY I THTR 330.01H Fall 2014

MCGILL 210

TUES & THURS 9.40-11.00

Dr. Bernadette Sweeney

T.A. Cohen Ambrose

Office: MCGILL 212C email: bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 12.40-2.10pm

Course Description:

Students will study each play, the context of each play and its period, selected scenes through performance, participate in class discussion, write 2 papers for formal assessment, and collaborate with selected classmates to present group research presentations.

Course Outcomes:

On completion of this course students will:

Have a broad knowledge of theatre history, style, context and audiences.

Have a knowledge of chosen play texts through close reading.

Have a critically informed understanding of chosen play texts through reading and analysis of critical material.

Have an understanding of how each play performs its time, its politics and the conditions of contemporaneous production.

Have engaged with this work through script analysis, scene study, research and analysis.

Have articulated their engagement with the work through formal research and writing, through informal review and other writing, and through reflection on their own experience of the work as performers, dramaturgs, researchers and/or audience members.

Will have collaborated with each other to present research presentations, scenes and/or production proposals.

Required Texts:

Norton Anthology of Drama volume one

Materials on Moodle, Library Reserve, and Hand Outs

Work:

GRADED:

30%-- essay 1

40%-- essay 2

30%-- attendance, quizzes, presentations and class contribution

Plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and may result in course failure.

Students will work in groups to give one presentation per group in class at a scheduled point in the semester – these will require time spent researching together outside of class time.

Presentations can include a research presentation and/or a selected scene read for the class. This is assessed on a credit/no credit basis as part of your class contribution grade. Each presentation should be between 10 and 15 minutes long.

Ground Rules:

I do not accept late papers unless the student contacts me with a reasonable reason *before* the beginning of the class on the day the paper is due (examples of unreasonable excuses include 'my printer is broken', 'the dog ate my homework', 'I'm in rehearsal'.)

More than three unexcused absences from class will result in your grade falling by a full letter.

Please feel free to ask and answer questions inside and outside class. I or T.A. Cohen Ambrose will have at least one conference with each student during the semester. If you have any questions about how you are doing, what you want to write about, or any of the material, contact me by e-mail, or arrange to see me during my office hours.

Course Schedule (subject to change):

Week 1: Introduction: Why study theatre? Why study theatre history?

Early theatre and performance – *Oral, ritual, and shamanic performance* (Moodle article)

Week 2: Theatre in Ancient Greece: Sophocles' *Oedipus* (ca. 430-425 BCE)

Group Project #1 presentations

Week 3: The First Female Playwright: Hrotsvit of Gandersheim's *Dulcitius* (ca. 975)

Week 4: Noh Theatre of Japan: Zeami Motokiyo's *Atsumori* (ca. 1400)

Paper #1 rough draft DUE

Week 5: REDRAFTING MEETINGS

Week 6: Commedia dell'Arte: Carlo Goldoni's *The Mistress of the Inn* (1753)

Group Project #2 presentations

Week 7: Theatre of Cyrano de Bergerac's France: Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1897)

Week 8: Theatre of the English Renaissance: William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1600-01) --OR--
Othello (1603)

Paper #1 final draft DUE

Week 9: Theatre of the English Renaissance: William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1600-01) --OR--
Othello (1603) (Cont.)

Group Project #3 presentations

Week 10: Theatre of the French Grand Siècle: Moliere's *Tartuffe* (1664)

Group Project presentations #4

NO CLASS TUESDAY

Week 11: Theatre of the French Grand Siècle: Moliere's *Tartuffe* (1664) (Cont.)

17th Century Indian Dance Drama: The Annette Leday/Keli Company's *Kathakali-King Lear* (1999)

Guest lecture: Dr. Jillian Campana

NO CLASS TUESDAY

Week 12: 17th Century Indian Dance Drama: The Annette Leday/Keli Company's *Kathakali-King Lear* (1999) (Cont.)

Group Project presentations #5

Week 13: Theatre of Victorian England: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1843)

Week 14: 19th Century Melodrama: Harriet Beecher-Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

NO CLASS THURSDAY

Paper #2 DUE

Week 15: Course Review

FINALS: TBA

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.