



THEATRE 2140: THEATRE IN WESTERN CULTURE

Professor	David H. Wilson
Office	248 Dwyer
Phone	419.586.0317
Office Hours	MT 11-1 and by appointment
Email	david.wilson@wright.edu
Website	dharlanwilson.com
Pilot	pilot.wright.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TH 2140 examines the many arts of the theatre, including the role of the playwright, actor, director, designer, critic and audience. Selected scripts from representative historical periods in the western tradition will be used to contextualize and demonstrate the theatrical event. Students can expect to acquire a vocabulary for discussing the various elements of performance while engaging in a concerted historical overview of the theatre's broader cultural framework.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a multimode course primarily conducted online with clear deadlines for all assignments; as long as you are attentive to these deadlines, you may generally work at your own pace. I am available by email and by appointment for personal consultation. Needless to say, accessing and using computer technology on a regular basis is a crucial requirement for the course. If you do not own a computer at home, make use of the computer labs on campus. TH 2140 is run via WSU's online learning gateway Pilot.

You may email me with questions at any time. I always answer within 24 hours, usually sooner, on the condition that emails are written in complete sentences and free of mechanical errors. Please do not email me in Textspeak. This is a college writing course. Make sure your queries are polished and professional and I will promptly address your concerns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After taking TH 2140, you should be able to do the following: recognize and understand theatre conventions and personnel; understand the cultural context of theatre in the development of western civilization; discuss theatre using a rhetoric specific to the form; comprehend the structure of a play as well as the different uses of a script for an actor, director and designer; describe the major historical periods of theatre; and appreciate theatre as an art form as well as a reflection of society.

TEXT

Jacobs, Lee A. *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama*. Seventh Edition. Boston: St. Martin's Press, 2012.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

TH 2140 is part of Element 4 of the Wright State University Core. Learning outcomes for this element include these criteria: [1] critically analyzing significant creative, literary, philosophical or religious works; [2] understanding and discussing the complex blend of imaginative vision, socio-cultural context, ethical values, and aesthetic judgment in creative, philosophical or religious works; [3] recognizing, evaluating and responding to creative, philosophical or religious works; and [4] developing appropriate and ethical applications of knowledge in the humanities or the arts.

SCREENINGS

There will be **three screenings** of plays adapted into movies that you will be required to attend in person. The screenings will take place during the fifth, tenth and fifteenth weeks of the semester and include, respectively, *Death of a Salesman*, *Hamlet* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. We will view each film on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:50 p.m. in 196 Dwyer Hall**.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

There will be a variety of writing assignments in the course. Every **Friday at 9 a.m.**, an assignment will be due, meaning you will be asked to complete one short essay, analysis, summary or reflection per week based upon readings in the textbook and/or screenings. Course grades are based upon a points system. Each assignment is worth 100 points.

An exception will be made for assignments related to film screenings. They will be due the following **Monday at 9 a.m.** in order to give you enough time to reflect on the film and complete your assignment.

All writing will be graded on content as well as proper grammar and syntax. Format your work according to **MLA Style**. Always revise and polish your work carefully before submitting it.

Specific instructions for all assignments are located on Pilot. They must be submitted on their respective due dates and times. Assignments may be submitted as **.doc**, **.docx**, **.rtf** or **.pdf** files. After completing whatever task has been put to you, go to the Dropbox and upload the file accordingly.

You are responsible for monitoring the upload of every assignment you submit. Assignments submitted after their due dates have elapsed (whether it be one day, ten days, or one minute) will not be accepted. All due dates are available from the beginning to the end of the course on Pilot so that you can organize and manage your time. Never wait until the last minute to submit work in case of computer glitches or other issues that might crop up. Always provide yourself with enough time to upload your work.

As I grade your work, Pilot tallies the points so that you may gauge your performance in the course at any time during the semester. At the end of the semester, points will be converted to percentages, and percentages will be converted to letter grades. Here is the grading rubric:

90.0-100%	A
80.0-89.9%	B
70.0-79.9%	C
60.0-69.9%	D
0-59.9%	F

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)



The Student Success Center offers FREE services to help students meet their full potential. Students can find tutoring in any subject, study buddies, one-on-one technology workshops, feedback on writing assignments, and general academic skills coaching. Web: lake.wright.edu/ssc. Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews**.

OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, it is essential that he or she discuss it with the instructor and the Office of Disability Services before or during the first week of the semester. ODS will work with these students on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment and accommodations would be appropriate regarding their documented needs. Students who qualify for these types of service should initiate contact with the instructor and/or ODS as soon as possible to enable the university to meet their needs. Please call Deanna Springer at **419.586.0366** or email her at deanna.springer@wright.edu. For more information, visit the ODS in **182 Andrews**.

LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC)

The Library and Technology Center provides free access to scholarly resources in all formats. Students can also visit the LTC for assistance with creating or editing multimedia projects (i.e., PowerPoint, Voiceovers, Website development, etc.). Phone: **419.586.8400**. Location: **197A Andrews Hall**.

CLASS CALENDAR

Below is a weekly breakdown of readings and assignments. Full descriptions are available on Pilot.

- 1** INTRODUCTION: THINKING ABOUT DRAMA (1-22)
Writing About Drama (1073-83)
Glossary of Dramatic Terms (1085-92)
- 2** GREEK DRAMA (30-40)
ROMAN DRAMA (104-110)
MEDIEVAL DRAMA (122-32)
Summaries of Dramatic Periods
- 3** Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* (41-66)
Sigmund Freud, "The Oedipus Complex" (73-76)
Critical Response to Freud
- 4** DRAMA IN THE EARLY & MID 20TH CENTURY (494-510)
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (666-706)
Summary of Dramatic Period
Creative Response to *Death of a Salesman*
- 5** *Death of a Salesman*
Analysis of *Death of a Salesman*
- 6** Martin Esslin, "Theatre of the Absurd" (768-70)
D. Harlan Wilson, *Primacy* (online)
Critical Response to *Primacy*
- 7** Samuel Beckett, *Endgame* (739-68)
Creative Response to *Endgame*
- 8** RENAISSANCE DRAMA (146-58)
LATE 17TH & 18TH CENTURY DRAMA (300-12)
Summaries of Dramatic Periods
- 9** William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (159-217)
T.S. Eliot, "Hamlet and His Problems" (227-30)
Research Essay on *Hamlet* & *Oedipus Rex*
- 10** *Hamlet*
Analysis of *Hamlet*
- 11** William Shakespeare, *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet* (online)
Critical Response to *The Fifteen Minute Hamlet*
- 12** 19TH CENTURY DRAMA THROUGH THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY (361-74)
CONTEMPORARY DRAMA (812-833)

Summaries of Dramatic Periods

- 13** Sarah Ruhl, *Eurydice* (1996-1016)
Creative Response to *Eurydice*
- 14** David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (online)
Critical Response to *Glengarry Glen Ross*
- 15** *Glengarry Glen Ross*
Analysis of *Glengarry Glen Ross*