



## **THEATRE 2140: THEATRE IN WESTERN CULTURE**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

TH 2140 examines the many arts of theatre, including the role of playwrights, actors, directors, designers, critics, and audiences. 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.

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 to 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. I want to see everybody excel and I'm here as a resource, but too frequently, students in remote classroom settings don't contact me when they encounter difficulties. Students who do make an effort to connect with me, however, invariably get better grades.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is an online course with clear deadlines for all assignments. There are no set meet times. As long as you are attentive to the deadlines, you may work at your own pace. Moreover, as a B-term offering, the course is compressed from 15 into seven weeks, meaning that the workload will be compressed, too. I am available by email and by appointment for personal consultation.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After taking TH 2140, you should be able to do the following: [1] recognize and understand theatre conventions and personnel; [2] understand the cultural context of theatre in the development of western civilization; [3] discuss theatre using a rhetoric specific to the form; [4] comprehend the structure of a play as well as the different uses of a script for an actor, director, and designer; [5] describe the major historical periods of theatre; and [6] appreciate theatre as an art form as well as a reflection of society.

## TEXTS

Gainor, J. Ellen, Stanton B. Garner, and Martin Puncher, editors. *The Norton Anthology of Drama*. Shorter Third Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2018. (This paperback text must be purchased or rented from the WSU bookstore.)

*Writing About Drama*. Supplement to *The Norton Anthology of Drama*. (This ebook is available for free on Pilot. In order to access it, remember to sign in to the publisher's website.)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

TH 2140 is part of Element 4 of the Wright State University Core. Learning outcomes 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.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Grades are based on a points system calculated throughout the semester by Pilot. Assignments include reading quizzes and writing exercises.

Every **Friday at 8 a.m.**, assignments for the week are due.

As I grade your work, Pilot tallies points so that you may gauge your performance in the course at any time. Points you receive on the essays will account for most of your final grade. 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

You are responsible for monitoring the completion and upload of all assignments. Assignments submitted after their due dates have elapsed (be it 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, personal emergencies, or other unforeseen issues. Always give yourself enough time to upload your work.

## ESSAYS

The essays you compose for the course will take the form of critical and creative responses to the material you read. 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 essays are located in the weekly modules on Pilot. The modules can be accessed by going to **Content > Table of Contents > Assignments**.

I encourage you to email me drafts of your essays prior to their due date. I will provide extensive feedback. You may not revise and resubmit work once it has been uploaded to the Dropbox. Be sure to send me drafts at least 48 hours before the due date so that you have ample time to think about and integrate my editorial input.

To submit essays, go to **Assessment > Dropbox**, then click on the name of the essay you want to upload. Please save your work as .doc or .pdf files.

## READING COMPREHENSION

Some of the chapters that you read in *The Norton Anthology of Drama* will be accompanied by a short quiz that assesses your comprehension of the material. To access the quizzes, click **Assessment > Quizzes & Exams**.

## 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 is a serious offense. If established with sufficient evidence, it can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Pilot is equipped with an originality checker that sniffs out plagiarized text like a bloodhound. Please do your own work. This includes effectively citing and paraphrasing sources. A word-for-word citation that is not enclosed in quotation marks constitutes plagiarism as much as an essay written by somebody else. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about plagiarism.

## 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](http://lake.wright.edu/ssc). Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews Hall**. Email: [ssc-lake@wright.edu](mailto:ssc-lake@wright.edu).

## OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

Wright State University is committed to diversity and inclusion. The Office of Disability Services will work with students who have disabilities on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment, and accommodations are most beneficial. Students who qualify for ODS assistance should initiate contact with the instructor and/or the ODS to enable the university to meet their needs. Email: [ods-lake@wright.edu](mailto:ods-lake@wright.edu). Web: [lake.wright.edu/campus-life/disability-services](http://lake.wright.edu/campus-life/disability-services).

## 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: **419.586.0333**. Location: **192 Andrews Hall**. Web: [lake.wright.edu/campus-life/library-and-technology-center](http://lake.wright.edu/campus-life/library-and-technology-center).

### CLASS CALENDAR

This weekly schedule provides an overview of major assignments and core readings from *The Norton Anthology of Drama*. Readings marked by an asterisk are accompanied by a quiz. Refer to **Content > Table of Contents > Assignments** on Pilot for more detail.

- 1 What Is Academic Writing? (ebook)  
Drama and Theater (1-3)  
A Short History of Theater (3-4)  
Greek Theater (4-12)  
Roman Theater (12-16)
  
- 2 Kinds of Drama Papers (ebook)  
Experiencing Drama (ebook)  
The Process of Writing About Drama (ebook)  
Reading Drama, Imagining Theater (81-84)  
Glossary of Dramatic Terms (1813-1835)
  
- 3 SOPHOCLES (87-89, 90-92)  
*Oedipus the King* (93-134)  
Sigmund Freud, "The Oedipus Complex" (online)  
**Due:** Critical Response to "The Oedipus Complex"
  
- 4 English Theater, 1576-1642 (37-42)  
English Theater, 1660-1700 (48-50)  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (321-327)  
*Hamlet* (333-428)
  
- 5 Eighteenth-Century Theater (50-53)  
Romanticism and Melodrama, 1800-1880 (54-59)  
Modern Theater, 1880-1945 (59-67)  
Postwar Theater, 1945-1970 (67-74)  
**Due:** Research Essay on *Hamlet* & *Oedipus the King*
  
- 6 Martin Esslin, Selection from *The Theater of the Absurd* (1186-1191)  
D. HARLAN WILSON, *Jackanape* (online)  
**Due:** Critical Response to *Jackanape*
  
- 7 SAMUEL BECKETT (1123-1128)  
*Waiting for Godot* (1129-1185)  
**Due:** Creative Response to *Waiting for Godot*

- E Contemporary Theater (74-80)
  - LORRAINE HANSBERRY (1192-1197)
  - A Raisin in the Sun* (1198-1261)