HISTORY OF THE THEATRE I
THR 3370.001, MWF 10:00-10:50am IH156
Fall 2019
Instructor: Dr. Thomas A. Oldham

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays 11:00am-1:00pm
Wednesdays 11:00am-1:00pm
Fridays 11:00am-noon

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Thomas.Oldham@tamucc.edu; Bay Hall 366; phone number: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course covers the developments in theatre history, theory, and literature up to approximately the year 1700. We will examine plays and theatrical practices from this period, tracing significant changes of the form and content. Readings will include a variety of representative plays, historical documents, and theoretical texts from major periods such as ancient Greece, Rome, medieval Europe, Classical India, Japan, China, neoclassical France, Early Modern England, the Italian Renaissance, Golden Age Spain, and the Restoration. We will also look at the cultural, social, philosophical, and political contexts that have shaped theatrical performance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Students will gain foundational knowledge and comprehension of major historical events, literary texts, and aesthetic movements from the history of the theatre prior to 1700.
2. Students will connect theatre history's influence to contemporary theatrical practice.
3. Students will analyze historical plays, playwrights, and performances.
4. Students will perform historical research using scholarly sources, synthesizing their work into an original written argument.
5. Students will contextualize historical performance in order to become better, more informed students, theatergoers, and artists.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:
1. In-class essays on assigned readings
2. Mid-term and final exams
3. Class participation and discussion
4. Group research performance
5. Written research assignment

COURSE MATERIALS:
Textbooks:
OPTIONAL: Norton Anthology of Drama, 3rd ed. TWO-VOLUME SET (ISBN: 978-0-393-28349-5) – I’m listing this as optional, because you might find it cheaper to buy both volumes at once, if you plan on taking History of the Theatre II or Script Analysis in the future.

Web Access:
Additional material, announcements, and any changes to the schedule will be posted to Blackboard.
GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:
200 points  In-class essays (11 @ 20 points, with the lowest score dropped)
150 points  Group Presentation
350 points  Three Exams (Two Midterms @ 100 pts; Cumulative Final @ 150 pts)
300 points  Research Paper
1000 points total

Grading Scale:
A=100-90%  (above 900 points)
B=89-80%  (800-899 points)
C=79-70%  (700-799 points)
D=69-60%  (600-699 points)
F=59-0%  (000-599 points)

LATE WORK:
No late work will be accepted.

IN-CLASS ESSAYS:
In-class essays will serve as quizzes over material covered in class and class readings. These will be unannounced and completed in the first 5-10 minutes of class.

GROUP PRESENTATION:
One performance project will require you to do historical research in order to re-create a historical performance in small groups, creatively using modern analogues for ancient practices. This includes a written defense of your choices of approximately 2-4 pages. A handout will explain the performance in further detail.

EXAMS:
Three written exams will feature some combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam will cover the material discussed and assigned up to the time of that test. The final exam will also include one cumulative section.

RESEARCH PAPER:
One research paper of approximately 7 pages, incorporating at least one primary source and several scholarly secondary sources. A handout will explain the paper in further detail.

ATTENDANCE:
Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions). Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with the instructor immediately to make such an exception viable BEFORE your absence.

TARDIES:
Three late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to withdraw from this class is November 8th.

GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.
STATEMENT OF CIVILITY
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Aug 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>DUE: Chapter 1 (Textbook)</td>
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<td>Wed, Aug 28</td>
<td>Origins</td>
<td>DUE: Chapter 1 (Textbook)</td>
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<td>Fri, Aug 30</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 2</td>
<td>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Wed, Sep 4</td>
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<td>DUE: <em>Agamemnon</em> (Norton Anthology)</td>
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<td>Fri, Sep 6</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Wed, Sep 11</td>
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<td>Fri, Sep 13</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 16</td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 23</td>
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<td>DUE: <em>Little Clay Cart</em> (Norton Anthology)</td>
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<td>Wed, Sep 25</td>
<td>Catch-up/Review</td>
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<td>MIDTERM EXAM 1</td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 30</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 2</td>
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<td>DUE: <em>Atsumori</em> (Norton Anthology)</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 4</td>
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<td>Chapter 5 (Textbook)</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 11</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Everyman</em> (Norton Anthology)</td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 16</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Snow in Midsummer</em> (Norton Anthology)</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 18</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>DUE: <em>The Lucky Pearl</em> (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Mon, Oct 21</td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 23</td>
<td>Paper Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Oct 25</td>
<td>What do we mean by “The Renaissance”?</td>
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Mon, Nov 11  England  DUE: Chapter 7 (Textbook)
Fri, Nov 15  England  DUE: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Norton Anthology)

Mon, Nov 18  France  DUE: p. 248-269 (Textbook)
Wed, Nov 20  France
Fri, Nov 22  France  DUE: *Phaedra* (Norton Anthology)

Mon, Nov 25  Restoration  DUE: RESEARCH PAPER!!!
Wed, Nov 27  READING DAY-NO CLASS
Fri, Nov 29  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS-NO CLASS

Mon, Dec 2  Restoration  DUE: *The Rover* (Norton Anthology)
Wed, Dec 4  Presentations  DUE: Group Presentations

Wed, Dec 11, 8:00am: Final Exam