

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Theatre Arts
Spring Semester 2013

THA 3752G: THEATRE HISTORY II
A University-designated "Writing Intensive" Course

Instructor. Dr. Chris Mitchell
2347 Doudna Fine Arts Center ("Red Zone," second floor)
581-3451
cjmitchell@eiu.edu

Office Hours: TR 11:00 am – 1:30 pm, or by appointment.

Professor's website: <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~cjmitchell> (check often)

Class Meets. MWF, 10 – 10:50 am, in DFAC 2040

Texts. Textbook rental should issue you:
Wilson and Goldfarb, *Living Theatre: A History (6th ed.)*
Wise and Walker, *The Broadview Anthology of Drama, Vol. I & II*

You must print out these plays from Booth Library e-reserve:
The London Merchant
The Conscious Lovers

You must photocopy this play from Booth Library print reserve:
Let's Get a Divorce!

Also, you should have close at hand:
A research paper style manual appropriate to your discipline. If your discipline is Theatre Arts, then that is MLA (*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, most recent ed.). Majors and minors will use this in all my theatre history and literature courses.

Other Costs. None.

Prerequisites. ENG-1001G and ENG-1002G. No prior experience or coursework in Theatre Arts is required or expected.

Overview. "This course will trace the evolution of the modern theatre beginning with the Restoration, moving through the Romantic movement, and ending with the emergence of the Modern Theatre at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Students will examine the history, society and dramatic literature of the various movements." (from *Eastern Illinois University 2012-2013 Undergraduate Catalog*)

2. **A midterm exam and a final exam.** In keeping with the writing-intensive designation of this course, these are essay exams which will determine how well you connect concepts together. The midterm, tentatively scheduled for **March 1**, will cover material from the first half of the semester and the final, scheduled for **Tuesday, April 30, from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm**, will cover material from the second half only (i.e. it's not cumulative).

I do generate review sheets for each component we cover. They will be posted on your class page of [my website](#).

3. **A 10-12 pp. written research paper** on a topic in theatre history within the periods/cultures covered, chosen by you in consultation with me. This will involve library research and will be done in stages— at each stage you will receive feedback from me. This is a project that will begin right away and will stretch throughout the semester. **You will receive two grades for this requirement.** One will be for the rough draft, evaluating your progress (“progress” must be at least seven pages)— this draft is due **February 13**. The other grade is of course for the final version, due **April 12**.

Paper particulars are covered in handouts which be posted on your class page of [my website](#).

ATTENDANCE. Along with active participation, consistent and prompt attendance is absolutely necessary to reap the maximum benefit from the course. As such, you will be held accountable for your attendance. An attendance sheet will be circulated at every class meeting on and after Monday, January 14, and it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure you have signed it before you leave class. In tracking absences, the following definitions apply:

- **“Excused absence”:** An excused absence results ONLY from a university-sanctioned activity, a family emergency, a health-related absence in which you are under a physician’s care, or an extraordinary circumstance as determined by the professor. All “excused absences” must be supported by a note from an official (physician, university official, etc.) supporting the absence.
 - “Excused absences” do not result in a penalty applied to your final average.

- “Unexcused absence”: Anything not defined by “excused absence” above. This includes, but is not limited to: “personal” days or non-university business, oversleeping, and health-related absences not supported by a physician’s note.
 - You are permitted THREE “unexcused” absences without penalty to your final average; more than three, see box below.

For every unexcused absence beyond the three you are permitted, you will lose **three points** off your final average. (That’s nearly 1/3 of a letter grade, folks. ATTENDANCE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS IN MY CLASSES.)

EXTRA CREDIT. There will be an opportunity or two for you to earn some extra points that can bolster your final average. As a general rule, these will be posted to [my website](#), so it is up to you to keep checking it!

Late Policy. Paper drafts. Unless an alternate arrangement is made with me in advance, I will accept your work past the due date subject to the following late penalty: for each class period of lateness, FIVE points will be deducted from the score for that assignment.

Exams. I only grant makeups for absences that meet the criteria for “excused absences” above. These will be done outside of class time.

Classroom Etiquette. A few ground rules to maximize fairness to all and to help make our classroom environment enjoyable and productive:

1. Be on time and plan to stay the whole time. Class begins at 10:00 am and ends at 10:50 am. (That is, don’t begin getting ready to go at 10:45— or earlier. If you’re doing that, you’re being rude to everyone in the class.)

“**The 10-minute rule.**” Even though I can’t remember the last time this was relevant (I’m very time-conscious), you can safely assume that the “10-minute rule” is valid for this class, according to the “official time” of the classroom (usually the classroom clock, unless otherwise designated by the professor).

2. Respect other class members’ right to learn as well as your own. This includes not having distracting conversations with your neighbor (or cell phone/text message buddy), not listening to your iPod/mp3 during class time, not reading newspapers or other non-

class material during class, and always respecting others' opinions in class conversation, even if you disagree. While you may keep your cell on "VIBRATE" in case of emergencies, all other electronic devices must be turned OFF during class time.

3. During examinations, no electronic device is permitted in the classroom, save your cell phone on "VIBRATE."

Disabilities. Should you require any special accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact the office of disability services at 581-6583 as soon as possible. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to give me a copy of the "Academic Accommodations" statement no later than January 18.

Academic Integrity. All assignments are expected to be your original work, and ALL resources you quote must be properly cited using an accepted citation method, appropriate to your discipline. (If you are in Theatre Arts, the most appropriate method is MLA.) THIS INCLUDES INTERNET SOURCES! You can always ask for help from me on citation method; that's what I'm here for.

Academic honesty, suffice it to say, is taken VERY seriously here, and any instance of plagiarism (see me if you are not clear on the definition of the word) or cheating will result in a zero for the assignment AT MINIMUM (depending on the severity of the infraction).

No paper will be accepted for a grade without proper documentation of sources. If I see a paper without citations, I will return it to you the next class period and you will begin losing points as per the late policy above.

***THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR.***