

# Theatre 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

## SYLLABUS

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<b>TERM:</b>	Autumn 2018	<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. J. Briggs Cormier
<b>CREDITS:</b>	3	<b>OFFICE:</b>	Drake 1089
<b>LEVEL:</b>	U	<b>OFFICE EMAIL:</b>	cormier.5@osu.edu
<b>CLASS TIME:</b>	WF 11:10 – 12:30pm	<b>OFFICE PHONE:</b>	(614) 292-8241
<b>LOCATION:</b>	DR2068	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By arrangement

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course surveys representative plays from various movements in the history of Western and non-Western theatre from antiquity to present.

### LEARNING GOALS:

- Explore the conventions of popular performance in Western and non-Western theatre from antiquity to present
- Understand why representative texts were popular, how the conditions of performance shaped their structures, and how they have been restaged or adapted for modern audiences
- Develop and refine analytical and research skills through reading and researching representative play and historical texts from antiquity to the present
- Develop and refine writing, analytical, and presentation skills through oral presentations, lay readings, class discussions, research projects, and research and performance analysis papers

**TEACHING METHOD:** This course will include assigned readings, lecture, discussion, in-class activity, oral presentations, and written assignments.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *The Norton Anthology of Drama, Shorter 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (ISBN: 978-0-393-28350-1) and online access to the digital resources for the anthology.

**REQUIRED ONLINE RESOURCES:** [go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary](http://go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary)

### REQUIRED PERFORMANCES:

*Twelfth Night; or, What You Will*  
September 28 – 30

*Michael von Siebenburg Melts Through the Floorboards*  
October 17 – 27

*Legally Blonde, the Musical*  
November 8 – 18

## OPTIONAL PERFORMANCES:

*Buried Child*  
September 13 – 22, Warehouse Theatre

*Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been...*  
October 22, Ohio State Theatre

*The Truth Has Changed*  
September 14, Wexner Center for the Arts

*Breaking the Code*  
October 24 – November 11, CATCO

*Acting Black: Demystifying Racism in America*  
October 15 – 17, Ohio State Theatre

*The White Album*  
November 16, Wexner Center for the Arts

## REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:

Critical Response Papers (30%): Students will write a 3-page paper on each of the department productions using the Fuchs article as a guide. Papers are weighted 5%, 10%, and 15%. Guidelines posted on Carmen.

Presentation (25%): Students will deliver a 30-minute presentation and lead discussion on one of the assigned plays. Guidelines are posted on Carmen.

Research Paper (25%): Students will write a 7-page paper on an historical topic of their choice using the Fuchs article as a guide. Guidelines posted on Carmen.

Assessment (15%): Weekly online quizzes.

Attendance (5%)

Extra Credit (5%): Students may earn up to 5% in extra credit for completing a fourth critical response paper on a production outside of the department season.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance will be taken through daily “quick quizzes” administered at the beginning of the class session. These quick quizzes are not graded, but rather used to assess student understanding of the material and instructor effectiveness. Each quick quiz is worth 0.2% of the total grade. A student may miss up to 3 sessions without losing credit for attendance.

## GRADING:

93 - 100.0	A
90 - 92.9	A-
87 - 89.9	B+
83 - 86.9	B
80 - 82.9	B-
77 - 79.9	C+
73 - 76.9	C
70 - 72.9	C-
67 - 69.9	D+
60 - 66.9	D
0 - 59.9	E

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resources/>).

**TITLE IX STATEMENT:**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g. race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu).

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as an Ohio State employee. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussion or in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University’s Title IX Office. If I can be of assistance in helping you to make a report and in finding campus and community resources, please let me know. If you would like to access resources directly, please feel free to contact the Title IX office (see above). Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Counseling & Consultation Services at 614-292-5766 or the 24-hour helpline from the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) at 614-267-7020.

Students with documented disabilities who have registered with the **Office of Student Life Disability Services** will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. SLDS is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave; Tel.: 614-292-3307; VRS: 614-429-1334; Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); Web: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**, the Ohio State SafeRide Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.



## COURSE SCHEDULE:

All readings from *The Norton Anthology of Drama* unless otherwise noted. Numbers following the article indicate the start of the reading. Students are responsible for reading the complete text.

### Week 1

W, Aug. 22

Introduction

F, Aug. 24

"EF's Visit to a Small Planet: Some Questions to Ask a Play" (in class and Carmen)  
"Drama and Theater," 1  
"A Short History of Theater," 3

### Week 2

W, Aug. 29

"Greek Theater," 4  
"Sophocles," 87  
*Oedipus the King*, 93  
"Aristotle: from *Poetics*," 135

F, Aug. 31

Greek Theatre  
"Aristophanes," 195  
*Lysistrata*, 199

### Week 3

W, Sept. 5

"Roman Theater," 12                      **Presentation:**  
"Hrotsvit of Gandersheim," 233  
*The Martyrdom of the Holy Virgins Agape, Chionia, and Hirena*, 238  
"Horace: from *The Art of Poetry*" (digital resource)

F, Sept. 7

"Classical Indian Theater," 16              **Presentation:**  
"Classical Chinese Theater," 19  
"Guan Hanqing," 244  
*Snow in Midsummer*, 249  
"William Dolby: 'Yuan Drama'" (digital resource)  
**Research Paper Ideas Due in Carmen—09/07, 11:59pm**

### Week 4

W, Sept. 12

"Classical Japanese Theater," 21              **Presentation:**  
"Zeami Motokiyo," 266  
*Atsumori*, 272  
"Zeami Motokiyo: from 'A Mirror Held to a Flower,'" 283

F, Sept. 14

"Medieval European Theater," 25              **Presentation:**  
"Anonymous," 289  
*Everyman*, 294  
"Robert Potter: from *The English Morality Play: Origins, History, and Influence of Dramatic Tradition*," 315

**Week 5**

**W, Sept. 19**

"Theater in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700," 30

"English Theater, 1567-1642," 37      **Presentation: Curtis Myers**

"William Shakespeare," 321

*Twelfth Night; or, What You Will*, edited for young audiences by Christopher Matsos (Carmen)

"Samuel Johnson: from "Preface" to *Dramatick Works of William Shakespeare*," 493

**F, Sept. 21**

"Spanish Theater, 1580-1700," 42      **Presentation:**

"French Theater, 1630-1700," 45

"Molière," 507

*Tartuffe*, 512

**Week 6**

**W, Sept. 26**

"English Theater, 1660-1700," 48      **Presentation:**

"Eighteenth-Century Theater," 50

"Romanticism and Melodrama, 1800-1880," 54

"Modern Theater, 1880-1945," 59

"August Strindberg," 565

*Miss Julie*, 570

**F, Sept. 28**

"Henrik Ibsen," 608

**Presentation:**

*A Doll's House*, 614

"George Bernard Shaw: from *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*," 662

**Week 7**

**W, Oct. 3**

"Susan Glaspell," 760

**Presentation:**

*Trifles*, 765

"Hélène Cixous: "The Laugh of the Medusa"" (digital resource)

***Twelfth Night* Response Due in Carmen—10/03, 11:59pm**

**F, Oct. 5**

"Post War Theatre, 1945-1970," 67      **Presentation:**

"Bertolt Brecht," 916

*The Good Person of Setzuan*, 922

"Raymond Wilson: from *Drama from Ibsen to Brecht*" (digital resource)

**Annotated Bibliography Due in Carmen—10/07, 11:59pm**

**Week 8**

**W, Oct. 10**

"Samuel Beckett," 1123

**Presentation:**

*Waiting for Godot*, 1129

"Martin Esslin: from *Theatre of the Absurd*"

**F, Oct. 12**

Autumn Break

**Week 9**

**W, Oct. 17**

Research Day

**F, Oct. 19**

"Arthur Miller," 1047

**Presentation:**

*Death of a Salesman*, 1053

"Arthur Miller: 'Tragedy and the Common Man,'" 1119

**Research Paper Outline Due in Carmen—10/21, 11:59pm**

**Week 10**

**W, Oct. 24**

"Lorraine Hansberry," 1192

**Presentation:**

*A Raisin in the Sun*, 1198 (ODEE Secured Media Library)

"Willis Richardson: 'The Hope of a Negro Drama'" (digital resource)

**F, Oct. 26**

Research Day

**Week 11**

**W, Oct. 31**

"Contemporary Theater," 74

**Presentation:**

"Wole Soyinka," 1314

*Death and the King's Horsemen*, 1319

"Wole Soyinka: from 'Appendix' to *Myth, Literature and the African World*" (digital resource)

**Michael von Siebenburg Response Due in Carmen—10/31, 11:59pm**

**F, Nov. 2**

"August Wilson," 1458

**Presentation:**

*Fences*, 1464 (ODEE Secured Media Library)

"August Wilson: from *The Ground on Which I Stand*," 1513

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Research Paper Due in Carmen—11/04, 11:59pm**

**Week 12**

**W, Nov. 7**

"Suzan-Lori Parks," 1647

**Presentation:**

*The America Play*, 1652

**F, Nov. 9**

"Caryl Churchill," 1366

**Presentation:**

*Cloud Nine*, 1371

**Peer Evaluation of Research Paper Due in Carmen—11/11, 11:59pm**

**Week 13**

**W, Nov. 14**

"Paula Vogel," 1682

**Presentation:**

*How I Learned to Drive*, 1687

**F, Nov. 16**

"Lynn Nottage," 1726

**Presentation:**

*Ruined*, 1731

**Legally Blonde Response Due in Carmen—11/18, 11:59pm**

**Week 14**

**W, Nov. 21** Thanksgiving Break

**F, Nov. 23** Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15**

**W, Nov. 28** "Oscar Wilde," 665 **Presentation:**  
*The Importance of Being Earnest*, 670 (ODEE Secured Media Library)

**F, Nov. 30** "Tennessee Williams," 975 **Presentation:**  
*A Streetcar Named Desire*, 981 (ODEE Secured Media Library)  
"Tennessee Williams: Production Notes on *The Glass Menagerie*" (digital resource)  
**Final Draft of Research Paper Due in Carmen—12/02, 11:59pm**

**Week 16**

**W, Dec. 5** "Tony Kushner," 1578 **Presentation:**  
*Angels in America, Parts 1 and 2*, 1583 (ODEE Secured Media Library)  
"A Brief History of Gay Theater, in Three Acts" (Carmen)

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Advance notice will be given in class should any changes become necessary.