**THR 110: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE SYLLABUS**

**(FALL SEMESTER, 2023-2024)**

3 hours of lecture per week

**Instructor:** Dr.E. Banu (Kılan) Paksoy

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**Office hours:** By appointment, Monday (between 13.30-15.00 p.m.)/ Room 356

Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, Theatre Department, 3rd floor.

**Spare hour:** We will use it only for make-up classes when needed. Students will be informed by an e-mail.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to Theatre is a survey course that focuses on Western theatre history from its origins to the present. Students will gain an appreciation of the aesthetics and collaborative dimensions of theatre. The course is designed to provide students with a historical understanding of one of the oldest forms of art by looking at how theatre was manifested in different periods. Reading dramatic works from different periods will help participants develop analytical skills as well as increase the enjoyment of theatre as art.

**REQUIRED TEXTS (COURSE MATERIAL)**

* *History of Theatre*, Oscar G. Brockett, Franklin J. Hildy, 10th Edition,

Pearson, 2014.

* *The Norton Anthology of Drama*, *Vol.I: Antiquity Through the Eighteenth*

*Century*, (Eds.) J. Ellen Gainor, Stanton B. Garner Jr., Martin Puchner, Second Edition., W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 2014.

* *The Essential Theatre*, Oscar G. Brockett, Robert J. Ball, John Fleming Andrew Carlson, Eleventh Edition, Cengage Learning, Boston, 2017.

* Before coming to the class, you are supposed to read the selected sections chosen from these books. All the reading materials and complementary videos can be reached from Moodle.
* We will also be reading some theatre plays and **discuss about them in class**. You are supposed to read the whole text if the play’s title is written in **bold** character (below). Reading of these plays is mandatory both for the midterm and final exams. Apart from these mandatory plays, we will discuss some other plays (fragments) by focusing on certain aspects.

**CONTENT OF OUR COURSE: WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE (14 WEEKS):**

1. Introduction/ What is Theatre? The Essentials and Origins of Theatre
2. Ancient Greek Theatre and Democracy: Greek Tragedy, Tragedians and City Dionysia Festival

**Play:*****Antigone* (Sophocles)**

3. End of Greek Tragedy and Rise of Greek Comedy

**Play:** ***Lysistrata* (Aristophanes)**

4. Ancient Roman Theatre and Roman Stage: Republican vs. Imperial Rome

5. European Medieval Theatre: Cycle Plays, Mysteries and Morality Plays; discussion on morality play *Everyman* (Anonymous)

6. Theatre in Early Modern Europe, The European Renaissance: Humanism

and Theatre Experience in Renaissance Italy (*Commedia dell’arte*)

**7. *Midterm Exam***

8. English Theatre and Drama, 1576-1642: Theatre in Elizabethan Era –

William Shakespeare (Discussion play: *Othello* by Shakespeare)

9. Spanish Theatre, 1580-1700; French Theatre, 1630-1700; Neo-Classicism

We will discuss Moli*è*re’s *The Imaginary Invalid* and Racine’s *Phèdre*

10. The Enlightenment; German Theatre and Drama; Romanticism and

Melodrama, 1800-1880.

11. Modern Theatre (1880-1945) – Realism and Naturalism: Henrik Ibsen,

Anton Chekhov, August Strindberg.

**Play:** ***Nora: A Doll’s House* (Ibsen)**

12. Avant-Garde Movements and Brecht’s Epic Theatre:

(Discussion on Brecht’s *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*)

13. American Theatre and Subjective Realism (Arthur Miller; Tennessee Williams)

**Play:** ***Death of a Salesman* (Miller)**

14. Absurd Theatre and Absurd Playwrights (Beckett; Ionèsco; Albee)

**Play: *The Lesson* (Ionèsco)**

**GRADING / ASSIGNMENTS**

Midterm Exam: **30%**

Final Exam: **40%**

Course Project (Paper): **20%**

* For your course project you are supposed to write an essay (: a theme on a play)
* There will be a deadline specified for each student
* There will be a different theatre play for each student. These plays will be assigned by me

Homework (Theatre Review): **10%**

* You are supposed to go to a theatre play and write a review about your impressions on the play.

\***All the necessary information (guidelines, expectations, etc. ) about the Course Project and the Theatre Review will be explained in the related folder.**

**GRADING SCALE**

A 95-100

A- 90-94

B+ 85-89

B 80-84

B- 75-79

C+ 70-74

C 65-69

C- 60-64

D+ 56-59

D 50-55

F 0-49 (fail)

**PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

* Attendance to class is **mandatory**. You are expected to come to the classroom on time. If you are later than 10 minutes, you will count as absent for that class.
* **After 9 hours of absence**, you may not take the final exam. Students who have not met the minimum performance and/or attendance requirements will not be allowed to take the final exam and will receive an **FZ grade**.
* CLASS PARTICIPATION: You are expected to participate class discussions and be prepared with comments and questions about the day’s material.
* On the date of your submission deadline for your course project, you need to be present in class.
* Mobile phones are **not** allowed during the class hours.
* If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability, please let me know in the first week.

**POLICY ABOUT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, PLAGIARISM AND USE OF AI**

* **Plagiarism** is a serious offense. It can cause a student to be suspended or expelled. In all your assignments (papers, etc.), you may use words/ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites or other sources, but only with proper attribution and by paying attention to academically approved citation rules. In text-citations, you are required to use the **MLA Citation-Guide.**
* Rules for plagiarism also apply to any written work **generated by AI**. Using artificial intelligence engines, software, or applications to prepare work (i.e. writing your essay and review) for this class is definitely **unacceptable**. Submitting work as your own that was generated by AI is considered plagiarism and is a breach of the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. Students should also take into account the fact that using AI especially in the field of fine arts diminishes creativity, as well as the opportunity to learn from our authentic experience and from each other.

For the University’s Academic Honesty Policy, see:

<http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.html>

For the Bilkent Student Code of Discipline, see:

<http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/admin-unit/hukukm/edisiplin.html>