

Orientation: Syllabus



Course Information

Course Description: Theatre history from 19th century to present.

Prerequisites: HIST 201 or equivalent

Meeting Information: T R 12:40-1:55pm in Carver 0184

The information in this syllabus is subject to change due to extenuating circumstances. Changes to the course syllabus will be announced via course-wide announcements and email.

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Instructor Information and Student Hours

- **Instructor:** Amanda Petefish-Schrag
- **E-mail:** apschrag@iastate.edu
- **Office Location:** 0318 Carver
- **Office Phone:** 515-294-8179
- **Student Hours:** T & TR 10:50-11:50PM, 2:00-3:00PM; Additional hours may be scheduled by appointment.

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Course Format

The plan of study for this course includes reading and analysis activities; games; lectures and discussions; experiments; and observing, analyzing, and critiquing productions and other theatre activity.

This course is arranged into sequential learning modules that each contain multiple activities/projects. In most modules, you will be able to select from a “menu” of learning activities/projects that will help you reach the course learning outcomes.

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Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize social, political, religious, and economic contexts and values of theatre activity from the 19th century through the present.
- Classify and connect theatrical practices and theories.
- Identify and critique the influence of historical theatre theory and practice on contemporary theatre theory and practice.
- Analyze and theorize the way cultural movements reflect and stimulate creativity and problem solving.

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Course Materials

We will use several texts in the course, which include plays, scholarly articles, and essays. The majority of these texts are accessible online (see below). There is one textbook, which is available in the ISU bookstore.


Required materials

- Gainor, J. Ellen, Stanton B. Garner Jr., Martin Puchner (eds.). *The Norton Anthology of Drama, Volume 2* (available in the ISU Bookstore)

We will use the following plays from this anthology:

- *A Doll's House* (Ibsen)
- *Ubu the King* (Jarry)
- *The Good Woman of Setzuan* (Brecht)
- *Machinal* (Treadwell)

- *Soul Gone Home* (Hughes)
 - *Death and the King's Horseman* (Soyinka)
 - *Mud* (Fornes)
 - *The America Play* (Parks)
- Mueller, Heiner. *Hamletmachine*. (Translation Redmond) (available online - link in Modules)
 - Stowe, Harriet Beecher. George Aikin (Adaptor). *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. (available online - link in Modules)

Throughout the semester we will also be using several podcasts and other audio-visual materials available through Howlround Theatre Commons: <https://howlround.com/> 

[\(https://howlround.com/\)](https://howlround.com/)

Specific links can be found in the Modules.

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Learning Activities and Assessments

For the first few weeks of class, everyone will be engaging in the same course learning activities, (for the most part). In the subsequent weeks of class, you will have multiple opportunities to choose your own learning activities and projects from our course “menus” (located in Canvas modules).

You are welcomed and encouraged to consult with me as your course instructor when choosing learning activities. If you have a particular passion or area of interest, let me know so that we can work together to find learning projects that are both relevant and connected to your goals and needs for the semester.

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Grading Policies

Letter Grades

A	Over 929 pts in which at least 100 points have been earned in each of the numbered modules
A-	900-929 pts in which at least 100 points have been earned in each of the numbered modules

B+	870-899 pts in which at least 100 points have been earned in each of the numbered modules
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B	830-869 pts in which at least 100 points have been earned in each of the numbered modules
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B-	800-829 pts in which at least 100 points have been earned in each of the numbered modules
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C+	770 pts and above
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C	730-769 pts
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C-	700-729 pts
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D+	670-699 pts
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D	630-669 pts
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D-	600-629 pts
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F	<600 pts
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You can accumulate points by participating in the following way:

Grade Distribution

Participation area	Total Points
Orientation Module	1-35 pts
Module I: Research Case Study - The Federal Theatre Project	1-190 pts
Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS"	1-485 pts
Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre	1-235 pts
Module IV: The Past Is Present	1-315 pts
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	1260 pts

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Course Policies

Feedback

Graded assessments will be returned with feedback within 10 days of the due date. Personalized feedback will be provided for each learning project with more than 25 pts attached.

Missed and Late Coursework

Late coursework/projects will be accepted (unless directly connected to a performance or group activity), but with a five percent grade reduction per day late. Work submitted more than three weeks past the original due date can no longer count toward your point totals.

Engagement and Participation

Active course engagement is vital to success in this class. One of the most important ways of staying engaged is active class attendance and participation. In addition to earning course points, attendance is an important way to learn and understand critical course content that will be necessary to complete many of the other course learning activities. Beyond course attendance, participate each week in your assigned and selected learning activities (available in Canvas). Prepare necessary materials in advance of in-class activities such as discussions and explorations; stay active in threaded discussions and other online opportunities to share and reflect on your work and progress.

In the case that you -

- need to miss a class or other course activities and assignments due to illness or other reasons,
- don't meet the objectives of a learning activity,
- would like additional experience with a content area or learning objective,

- you can opt to complete one or more of the activities labeled "optional" under the **Enrichment/Practice** headings in the Canvas course modules to supplement your learning and course points. You are welcomed and encouraged to consult with me if you want assistance in selecting activities that will help you meet your learning goals and needs.

Note: Practice care for yourself and your community by staying home if you are ill or potentially contagious. *You do not need to provide a doctor or nurses's note or other documentation if you need to miss class for illness or emergency.*

Your Name and Identity

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me accordingly early in the semester so that I can make appropriate changes to my records.

This can also be done via the [Student Inventory](#) (<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/97938/assignments/1910448>) in our [Orientation Module](#) (<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/97938/modules/643205>).

Class Climate and Content Warnings

All of us should feel responsible for creating a space that exemplifies the tenets of ISU's Principles of Community: Respect, Purpose, Cooperation, Richness of Diversity, Freedom from discrimination, and the Honest and respectful expression of ideas.

Our course readings and discussions may sometimes involve mature, and potentially challenging topics. Navigating these topics might trigger strong feelings and responses —anger, discomfort, anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, laughter, and tears.

In these interactions, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree) and mindful of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom. Likewise, if you have a trigger that you would like me to know so I can help you with a specific warning, please share if you feel comfortable. You don't have to share details - just what content might be harder for you to engage with during the course.

Inclusive Course Design

I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive in its design. If you encounter barriers, please let me know so we can determine if there is a design adjustment that can be made or if an accommodation might be needed to overcome the limitations of the design. I am always happy to consider creative solutions as long as they do not compromise the intent of the assessment or learning activity. You are also welcome to contact the Student Accessibility Services (515-294-7220) to begin this conversation or to establish accommodations for this or other courses.

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Course Schedule

(This is a schedule overview. Consult our Canvas Modules to get more specific details on weekly schedules, module menus, individual project due dates, online and face to face activity dates, as well as changes and updates.)

Week One (1/17-20)	Complete Orientation Module in Canvas
Week Two (1/23-27)	Begin Module I: Building Your Toolkit/Federal Theatre Project
Week Three (1/30-2/3)	Module I: Building Your Toolkit/Federal Theatre Project (Cont.)
Week Four (2/6-10)	Module I: Building Your Toolkit/Federal Theatre Project (Cont.)
Week Five (2/13-17)	Complete Module I: Building Your Toolkit/Federal Theatre Project Begin Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS"
Week Six (2/20-24)	Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS" (Cont.)
Week Seven (2/27-3/3)	Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS" (Cont.)
Week Eight (3/6-10)	Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS" (Cont.)

Week Nine (3/13-17)	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week Ten (3/20-24)	Complete Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS" <i>(Research Proposals from Module IV due)</i>
Week Eleven (3/27-3/31)	Begin Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre
Week Twelve (4/3-7)	Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre (Cont.)
Week Thirteen (4/10-14)	Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre (Cont.)
Week Fourteen (4/17-21)	Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre (Cont.) Start Module IV: The Past Is Present
Week Fifteen (4/24-28)	Complete Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre Module IV: The Past Is Present (Cont.)
Week Sixteen (5/1-5)	Module IV: The Past Is Present (Cont.)

Finals Period – Thursday, May 11th @ 9:45

Theatre History Five-Minute Play Festival/Share and Discuss Research Projects

Other important dates

Monday 1/23 Last day to drop full-semester or first half-semester courses without the drop appearing on the permanent record or counting toward the limit of dropped courses.

Friday 3/31 Last day to add/drop full-semester courses or withdraw without extenuating circumstances.

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ISU Syllabus Statements

View Required and Recommended ISU Syllabus Statements via the Syllabus Statements option on your left-hand Canvas course navigation. Syllabus statements are developed by Iowa State University to communicate a consistent message to all students about strategic policies that impact their experience and make students aware of available campus resources.

The instructor of this course abides by University policies and regulations concerning attendance, academic honesty (including plagiarism), and all others as stated in the current Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

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Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. We welcome and encourage students to contact the following on-campus services for their physical, intellectual, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, and/or emotional needs:

Student Wellness call 515-294-1099 or via website (<http://studentwellness.iastate.edu> (<http://studentwellness.iastate.edu>)).

Thielen Student Health Center call 515-294-5801 (24/7 Medical Advice) or via website (<http://www.cyclonehealth.org> (<http://www.cyclonehealth.org>)).

Student Counseling Services call 515-294-5056 or via website (<https://counseling.iastate.edu> (<https://counseling.iastate.edu>)).

Recreation Services call 515-294-4980 or via website (<http://recservices.iastate.edu> (<http://recservices.iastate.edu>)).

Students dealing with heightened feelings of sadness or hopelessness, thoughts of harm or suicide, or increased anxiety may contact the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact ISU Police Department 515-294-4428.