

Course Syllabus

 Edit

Theatre History: 19th Century-Present

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Course Description

This course covers theatre history from 19th century to present.

- **Course Name: Theatre History: 19th Century to Present**
- **Department: Music and Theatre**
- **Current Semester and Year: Spring 2024**
- **Credit Hours: 3**
- **Course Meeting Time: T, TR 9:30-10:45AM**
- **Course Format: In Person**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Amanda Petefish-Schrag

Email: apschrag@iastate.edu

Phone: 515-294-8179

Office location: Carver 0318

Student hours: (on-campus/virtual) T 11AM-1PM & W 11-12. *Additional hours may be scheduled by appointment.*

You can contact your instructor in the following ways:

- Send an email message - apschrag@iastate.edu - (<mailto:apschrag@iastate.edu>,) or email me through the Canvas email function. I try to check email at least twice a day during regular working hours on M-F, and am *usually* able to get back to you within a couple of hours.

Note: I respond to email received after 5PM on the following weekday, and emails received on weekends the following Monday.

- Set up a meeting using ISU Navigate, or email to set up a time. Meetings can be in person, via Zoom, or phone.

Course Objectives

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

- Recognize social, political, religious, and economic contexts and values of theatre performance from its origins through the 18th century.
- Classify and connect theatrical production 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.

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.

<https://www.aaihs.org/implicit-bias-and-american-history/>

Learning Activities

To successfully complete this course, students will do the following:

- Attend and participate in class sessions
- Read and reflect on assigned articles, essays, and plays
- View online lectures
- Complete reading/watching reflections
- Complete assigned and selected individual research projects and learning activities

All course learning activities are described in the Canvas [modules](https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/modules). (<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/modules>) These course modules are sequential, meaning you will complete activities in one module before moving on to the next.

For the first several weeks of class, everyone will be engaging in the same course learning activities.

In the later weeks of class, you will have opportunities to select some of your own learning activities and project options from the 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.

Grading Policies

Grade Distribution

You can accumulate points by participating in the following way:

Grade Distribution

Participation area	Total Points
Orientation Module	1-20 pts
Module I: Research Case Study - The Federal Theatre Project	1-190 pts
Module II: Frameworks and Cases in the "ISMS"	1-425 pts
Module III: Frameworks and Cases in U.S. Theatre	1-240 pts
Module IV: The Past Is Present	1-290 pts
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	1165 pts

Grading Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

A Over 929 pts

A- 900-929 pts

B+ 870-899 pts

B 830-869 pts

B- 800-829 pts

C+ 770-799 pts

C 730-769 pts

C- 700-729 pts

D+ 670-699 pts

D 630-669 pts

D- 600-629 pts

F <600 pts

Course Policies

Feedback

Graded assessments will be returned 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 projects will be accepted (unless directly connected to a presentation 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, Attendance, & 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. Apart from earning course points, attending class allows you to better understand important content that will be necessary to successfully complete other course learning activities. Prepare all required materials beforehand for in-class activities, such as discussions and workshops. For class discussions, follow the **[communication guidelines](https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/pages/orientation-communication-guidelines)** (<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/pages/orientation-communication-guidelines>) described in the Canvas Orientation Module.

*All communication and interactions within the course should adhere to university standards of **[Effective Communication Practices](https://www.celt.iastate.edu/netiquette-at-isu/)**. (<https://www.celt.iastate.edu/netiquette-at-isu/>) Specifically, communication should be scholarly, respectful, and courteous in nature. You are expected to follow **[ISU's Principles of Community](https://www.diversity.iastate.edu/connect/principles)** (<https://www.diversity.iastate.edu/connect/principles>).*

In the case that you -

- must miss a class or other course activities and assignments due to illness or other valid reasons,
- do not fully meet the objectives of a learning activity, or
- seek additional experience with a particular content area or learning objective,

- you have the option to complete extra or additional activities listed within the module course menus (under "Applications/Enrichment Activities") to supplement your learning and course points. Feel free to consult with me if you need assistance in choosing activities that align with 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 nurse's note or other documentation if you need to miss an individual 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. 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 in the Orientation Module.

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 will often involve mature, and potentially challenging topics. In these interactions, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree) and mindful of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom.

Required ISU Syllabus Statement


Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu/know-the-code-resources/resources-for-students/harassment-and-free-speech/free-speech) (<https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu/know-the-code-resources/resources-for-students/harassment-and-free-speech/free-speech>) and the principle of [academic freedom](https://www.iowaregents.edu/plans-and-policies/board-policy-manual/310-academic-freedom) (<https://www.iowaregents.edu/plans-and-policies/board-policy-manual/310-academic-freedom>) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Additional ISU Syllabus Statements

Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic misconduct ([5.1 in the Student Code of Conduct](https://www.policy.iastate.edu/policy/SDR) (<https://www.policy.iastate.edu/policy/SDR>)). Students are responsible for adhering to university policy and the expectations in the course syllabus and on coursework and exams, and for following directions given by faculty, instructors, and Testing Center regulations related to coursework, assessments, and exams. Anyone suspected of academic misconduct will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct in the Dean of Students Office](https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu) (<https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu>)

[/academic-misconduct/armfacultystaff](#)). Information about academic integrity and the value of completing academic work honestly can be found in the [Iowa State University Academic Integrity Tutorial](#)  (<https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/academicintegrity/>).

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion for students with disabilities. Promoting these values entails providing reasonable accommodations where barriers exist to students' full participation in higher education. Students in need of accommodations or who experience accessibility-related barriers to learning should work with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to identify resources and support available to them. Staff at SAS collaborate with students and campus partners to coordinate accommodations and to further the academic excellence of students with disabilities. Information about SAS is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu (<https://sas.dso.iastate.edu/>), by email at accessibility@iastate.edu (<mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu>), or by phone at 515-294-7220.

Discrimination and Harassment

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu (<mailto:eooffice@mail.iastate.edu>)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources

Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. Resources available on the ISU Student Health and Wellness [website \(https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/\)](https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/). (<https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu>)

Prep Week

This class follows the Iowa State University Prep Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the [Faculty Handbook \(https://www.provost.iastate.edu/policies/faculty-handbook\)](https://www.provost.iastate.edu/policies/faculty-handbook).

Religious Accommodation

Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request a reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you

should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office \(https://www.studentassistance.dso.iastate.edu/\)](https://www.studentassistance.dso.iastate.edu/) at 515-294-1020 or the [Office of Equal Opportunity \(https://www.eoc.iastate.edu/\)](https://www.eoc.iastate.edu/) at 515-294-7612.






Contact Information For Academic Issues

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above statements, email [academicissues@iastate.edu \(mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu\)](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu)










(Important note to faculty: The email address for contact information is monitored and answered through the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost)








Disclaimer: The information in this syllabus is subject to change in extenuating circumstances. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided in writing and announced via course-wide announcements.

Course Summary:







Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 16, 2024	 Diving in to Living History: Introductions to Each Other and the Course https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186943	due by 9:30am
Wed Jan 17, 2024	 Celebratory Syllabus Quiz! https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186908	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 18, 2024	 Overview (Start here)	to do: 11:58pm
Thu Jan 18, 2024	 Theatre History Student Inventory https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186963	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 19, 2024	 "What's My Evidence?" https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186907	due by 11:59pm





Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 22, 2024	 Federal Theatre Project: Context and Overview (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186911)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 23, 2024	 Federal Theatre Project Discussion (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186932)	due by 9:30am
Wed Jan 24, 2024	 What's My Evidence? (Part II) - Starting the Investigation (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186974)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 25, 2024	 Evaluating and Using Evidence; Pursuing New Questions (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186931)	due by 9:30am
Fri Jan 26, 2024	 Federal Theatre Project Research Question (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186936)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 29, 2024	 You Know What They Say About Assuming . . . (Bias in Historical Research) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186977)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 30, 2024	 Research and Historical Bias Discussion (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186956)	due by 9:30am
Wed Jan 31, 2024	 (Psst! START HERE) Foundations of the "Isms": Brief Historical Context and Overview (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186922)	due by 11:59pm











Date	Details	Due
Thu Feb 1, 2024	 Exploring the Historical Context of the Early ISMs https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186924	due by 9:30am
	 Federal Theatre Project Evidence Catalog https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186934	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 2, 2024	 Federal Theatre Project Learning Reflection https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186935	due by 11:59pm
	 Overview: The Past is Present	to do: 11:58pm
Mon Feb 5, 2024	 Melodrama, The Well-Made Play, and Pictorial Realism https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186912	due by 11:59pm
Tue Feb 6, 2024	 "Fair is foul, and foul is fair!" A 19th Century Star System Theatre History Role Play https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186979	due by 9:30am
Wed Feb 7, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: Uncle Tom's Cabin https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186898	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 8, 2024	 Melodrama, The Well-Made Play, & Pictorial Realism - Discussion https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186946	due by 9:30am
Mon Feb 12, 2024	 (OPTIONAL) This Seems Familiar . . . https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186969	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Tue Feb 13, 2024	 The Emergence of "Directing" - a Theatre History Role Play (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186959)	due by 9:30am
Wed Feb 14, 2024	 Early Experiments in Realism, Naturalism, and Avoiding Government Censorship (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186909)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 15, 2024	 Early Experiments in Realism, Naturalism, and Avoiding Government Censorship - Discussion (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186929)	due by 9:30am
Fri Feb 16, 2024	 Research Project Proposal (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186955)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 19, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: A Doll's House (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186901)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Feb 20, 2024	 Early Experiments in Realism, Naturalism, and Avoiding Government Censorship - Part II (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2203876)	due by 9:30am
Wed Feb 21, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: Ubu Roi (Ubu the King) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186903)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 22, 2024	 The Bedrocks of Anti-Realism - Discussion (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186958)	due by 9:30am

Date	Details	Due
Fri Feb 23, 2024	 (OPTIONAL) Where'd That Come From? (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186920) 	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 26, 2024	 Theatre of Revolt: Futurism, Dadaism, Surrealism (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186905) 	due by 11:59pm
Tue Feb 27, 2024	 Theatre of Revolt: Angry Mobs, Chaos as Technique, and Dreams as Truth (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186966) 	due by 9:30am
Wed Feb 28, 2024	 Theatre's "New Normal": Absurdism and Eclecticism (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186899) 	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 29, 2024	 Theatre's "New Normal": Existentialism and Redefining Relationships (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186968) 	due by 9:30am
Fri Mar 1, 2024	 Module IV Project Workshop/Check-In (Sign Up) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186948) 	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 18, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: Hamletmachine (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186910) 	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 19, 2024	 After Modernism: The Postmodern Theatre Movement (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186923) 	due by 9:30am
Wed Mar 20, 2024	 Past, Present, and Future . . . (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses) 	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	/107346/assignments/2186949)	
Thu Mar 21, 2024	 Past, Present, and Future Discussion (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186950)	due by 9:30am
	 Module II Learning Reflection (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2204972)	due by 11:58pm
Fri Mar 22, 2024	 (OPTIONAL) 5-Minute Play Challenge (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186917)	due by 11:59pm
	 (OPTIONAL) One of These Things is Not Like The Other (Or Is It?) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186918)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 25, 2024	 "The America Play" by Suzan-Lori Parks (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186916)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 26, 2024	 U.S. Theatre in the 19th-20th Century (Overview and Historical Context) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186973)	due by 9:30am
	 Top Hats and Monocles - U.S. Theatre Monopolies of the late 19th/early 20th Century	to do: 11:59pm
Wed Mar 27, 2024	 Top Hats and Monocles: U.S. Theatre Monopolies of the late 19th/early 20th Century Threaded Discussion Role Play! (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186921)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Mar 28, 2024	 U.S. Commercial Theatre Origins and Practices: The Syndicate (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186971)	due by 9:30am
Fri Apr 5, 2024	 Research Project - Group A (REQUIRED) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186953)	due by 11:59am
Mon Apr 8, 2024	 Yelling "Fire" in a Crowded Theatre . . . (19th-early 20th C. U.S. Theatre Architecture and Safety) (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186976)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 9, 2024	 U.S. Theatre Safety and The Emergence of Unions (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186972)	due by 9:30am
Wed Apr 10, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: Soul Gone Home (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186897)	due by 11:59pm
	 Minstrelsy and Its Impacts in U.S. Theatre (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186947)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 11, 2024	 Theatre of the Harlem Renaissance (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186967)	due by 9:30am
Mon Apr 15, 2024	 El Teatro Campesino and The Workers Theatre Movement (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186930)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Apr 16, 2024	 The Workers Theatre Movement Discussion https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186962	due by 9:30am
Wed Apr 17, 2024	 Plays as Primary Evidence: Machinal https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186900	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 18, 2024	 U.S Feminist Theatre https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186970	due by 9:30am
Tue Apr 23, 2024	 Representation and "Othering" in U.S. Theatre History. https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186952	due by 9:30am
Wed Apr 24, 2024	 Selective Realism and "The New Stagecraft" https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186904	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 25, 2024	 Little Theatre, New Stagecraft, and Selective Realism Discussion https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186941	due by 9:30am
Tue Apr 30, 2024	 Class Meeting - TBD https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2205050	due by 9:30am
	 Module III Learning Reflection https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186940	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 3, 2024	 Course Survey https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186926	due by 11:59pm
	 Research Project - Group B (OPTIONAL)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue May 7, 2024	https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186954	
	 Final Period - Theatre History Short Play Festival and Research Panel (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186937)	due by 9:45am
	 Semester Learning Reflection (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/107346/assignments/2186957)	due by 11:59pm