

THTR 3280 | Modern Theatre Survey

Professor Neil Kristian Scharnick

Office: Lentz 315

Office Hours: Varied—please call or email

MWF 1:35-2:40

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a detailed study of theatre and its development in the West since the rise of Modernism. Particular attention is given to the immeasurable influence of Marx, Darwin, and Freud on the world, and therefore on the themes, structures, and movements in theatre after the late nineteenth century. Students will consider representative works from several late-nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century movements, including: Realism, Naturalism, Symbolism, German Expressionism, Futurism, Dadaism, Absurdism, etc., with special emphasis placed on the dominant form: selective realism. Coursework will include presentations and written evaluations of play texts and theatre productions.

This course is a fundamental component of the Theatre major, but should also be viewed as a valuable contributor to your liberal arts education. You will be challenged by the texts and concepts we examine to think not only about theatre, but about the people and movements that helped to shape the modern and post-modern worlds. I am confident that, aided by Ibsen, Beckett, Albee, Churchill, and others, we can grow in our common and individual understandings of some of the world's most important and revolutionary ideas.

COURSE GOALS

Students will be able to:

- identify the key distinctions between modern theatre and earlier performance practices and explain the root causes for the differences.
- name and describe the major movements (-isms) of modern theatre and identify key theorists and/or playwrights/plays of each.
- identify major themes and formal innovations of modern theatre and identify, at least in part, their historical causes.
- identify and describe the work of the major playwrights of the modern American theatre.

Reading List:**Part I:***Woyzeck**Miss Julie**The Cherry Orchard**Ubu the King**The Importance of Being Earnest**Riders to the Sea**Six Characters in Search of an Author**The Maids**Waiting for Godot**The Zoo Story***Part II:***Trifles**A Streetcar Named Desire**Dutchman**A Raisin in the Sun**Buried Child**Cloud Nine**Master Harold... and the boys**Glengarry Glen Ross**Fences**The America Play*

EVALUATION

Participation/Attendance	20%
Paper	30%
In-class/Short Assignments	20%
Final Project	30%

CLASS PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

We will spend a large portion of class time discussing the texts and important related ideas and movements, and it is through these discussions that you can expect to learn the most.

Obviously, if you don't come to class it will be hard to participate, so attendance is vital.

Likewise, if you don't keep up with the readings it will be impossible to participate effectively.

The departmental attendance policy is in effect. However, I am fully aware of the ways in which COVID has complicated our lives. If you are in anything but perfect health, you are encouraged to attend through Zoom rather than in person. Talk to me if you have any questions concerning what constitutes satisfactory attendance. The short version is that your attendance in some form is expected and absences can affect your grade.

EXAMS

There will be a midterm and a comprehensive final exam. Attendance requirements for examinations strictly follow official college procedures. No make-up exams or quizzes are given.

SUPPORTING YOUR SUCCESS

Office hours: Please contact me via email anytime to set up an appointment, or just stop by my office for a visit! I want to help you get the most out of this course and would love to discuss what that looks like for you.

Health and Counseling Center

Free, confidential services are available for all Carthage students. Call 262-551-5802, or visit their [website](#).

Learning Accessibility Services

If you anticipate or experience difficulty in learning and need some accommodation, our [LAS office](#) will work with you so we can make adjustments to the class to remove those barriers. It is much preferred that you discuss your concerns with them, not just with your professors.

Feel free to let me know your preferred pronoun usage.
And please forgive me and remind me if I get it wrong.

The Carthage Community Code

You should read and be familiar with this document. Among other things, Carthage College is committed to:

- o fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students
- o ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to services, programs, and activities,
- o no discrimination with regard to an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristic, or military status.
- o BERT: Carthage's Bias Education Response Team, or BERT, responds to bias incidents that occur on campus or among members of the Carthage community. Any member of the Carthage community may submit a [Bias Incident Report](#). The team documents incidents, collects data, and provides support and educational programming to all affected. The team is not designed to conduct investigations of incidents, but rather support the College in its investigations.
- o Read the full [Community Code](#) to understand all of the areas it governs, including academic standards.

Writing Center

Please let me know if you are having any problems with writing, do not understand the assignment, and/or need help getting started. You should also consider going to the Writing Center, located on the second floor of the Hedberg Library. The center has student tutors who are available at specified times and by appointment. These writing fellows are accomplished, upper-level writers who can help you with any stage of the writing process, from creating a compelling thesis to polishing a final draft. In order to make an appointment for a time slot either go to, or call, the Writing Center at **552-5536**.