



Independent Study in Contemporary British Theatre - Syllabus

Independent Study in Contemporary British Theatre, THTR 495, Spring '25

Instructor	Eric Renschler
E-mail	er55@evansville.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	M/W 5:00-6:15 - (The class cohort will meet regularly during its scheduled meeting time or individually with instructor. As an independent study, not all class periods will be used, and we will occasionally meet with THTR110 during their class time, M/W 3:30-4:45. Additional required evening performances are also scheduled)
Required Experiential Learning Dates	See course schedule below
Office Hours	By appointment or by chance in the Visiting Faculty Office. I am also available immediately after class for as long as needed. You may also make another appointment at that time or email me at er55@evansville.edu

Catalog Description:

Permits advanced creative and scholarly work in any area of the theatre arts. The specific plan of study for each individual is determined in consultation with the faculty. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

At Harlaxton, this course is designed for students with significant theatre experience at the collegiate level, who wish to independently explore topics of personal interest in the UK. Designers, Directors, Actors, Historians, Managers, and Dramaturgs are all welcome. Group and independent travel required. Students will also attend performances throughout the UK with THTR 110: Introduction to Theatre. Each student will identify an independent course of exploration throughout Britain. Students must participate in the College sponsored performances/tours in London and surrounding cities. Course fee includes group excursions and transportation.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 3 hours of supervised study per week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 hours for each credit. For this 3 credit course students are expected to devote a minimum of 135 hours.

Course Learning Objectives:

To attend, discuss, and critique British Theatre performances individually and as a class.

To identify a topic of personal interest in contemporary British Theatre.

To explore independently this area of interest, formulate a thesis, and present findings to class cohort.

Methods of Instructions:

Independent study, cohort discussion, and faculty consultation throughout term.

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In consultation with the instructor, each student will identify their own course of exploration throughout Britain. Students may choose to focus on a playwright (e.g., Shakespeare), an institution (e.g., the National Theatre), an aspect of production (e.g., scenic or costume design, etc.) or a genre of performance.

Students will regularly meet at Harlaxton to share experiences and materials with student colleagues. Evaluation will be based on these meetings as well as an individual portfolio or research paper.

The course fee will cover experiential tips, theatre admissions and travel to London, and the cities surrounding Harlaxton as noted below. Students are responsible for individual research materials, travel, museum and theatre admission as needed to complete their independent study.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

None

Course Schedule:

A full-term calendar is available online in Blackboard.

As a class we will attend the following performances.

29-Jan	Wednesday	Ballet Shoes – National Theatre, London
8-Feb	Saturday	Stratford: Shakespeare birthplace & RSC tour
12-Feb	Wednesday	Panto: Red Hot Riding Hood – Grantham Guild Hall
19-Feb	Wednesday	Cabaret : West End, London
26-Feb	Wednesday	Hamlet : Royal Shakespeare Co. Stratford
12-Mar	Wednesday	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory : Grantham Guild Hall
20-Mar	Thursday	The Magic Flute : Opera North, Nottingham
26-Mar	Wednesday	Oedipus : Old Vic, London
9-Apr	Wednesday	Chicago, the Musical : Nottingham

These are evening performances and transportation will be provided by the College. It is our intent to offer a diverse cross section of theatre performance types within the UK during the semester. **These experiential activities are required.**

Grading Criteria:

Students will regularly meet at Harlaxton to share experiences and materials with student colleagues. Evaluation will be based on these meetings as well as an individual portfolio or research paper.



Students may present their findings through an ongoing series of blog or vlog posts, a written journal, or traditional research paper. This presentation approach will be determined in consultation with the course instructor.

Requirements:

- Participation in all class excursions and theatre performances.
- Individual and group presentations relating to the scheduled class trips.
- Written reflections on performances attended.
- Student reflections/portfolio on independent travel and research.
- Final presentation of research.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long-term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.

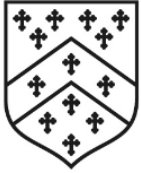
Each unexcused absence after the second will incur a full-letter grade deduction in the final course grade. All field trips are required, and no unexcused absence will be allowed for either the field trip or subsequent written reflections regarding those experiences.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of college-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).



- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy: It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. **Non-Discrimination Statement** The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole. **Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality** The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct. All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between



Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees. Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity. You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email:

Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk