

THTR 110

Introduction to Theatre, Harlaxton Spring 2026

Instructor	Sarah J Smith	Phone	TBD
Office Location	TBD	Email	ss662@evansville.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	M/W 5:00pm -6:15pm And evening field trips to see live performances.	Student Drop-In Office Hours	M/W from 4-5pm and by appointment
Course Mode	In person with many experiential trips to see live theatrical performances		

Course Information

Catalog Description:

Acquaints students with the process of creating theatre and enhances their ability to enjoy and appreciate live theatrical performances.

Requires observations of evening performances in addition to attendance of lectures.

(UE Outcome 5)

At Harlaxton, students will attend theatrical performances in London and surrounding cities, to gain a first hand experience of theatre as a form of artistic expression. Class sessions will further explore these plays, their connection to contemporary culture, as well as the “how and why” of their creation.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Combination of standard lecture and other academic activities: “This class meets the federal credit hour policy through a combination of lecture + laboratory (or lecture + practicum) for a total of 45-75 hours of supervised learning activities for each credit.” (Def 1 & 2)

General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for:
UE Outcome 5

Course Learning Outcomes:

To gain a broad understanding of the process of theatre making, and an appreciation of the cultural and aesthetic value of plays and other forms of live theatrical performance.

To explore a variety of performance styles, venues, and the relationship between audience and performer.

To enhance the student's ability to understand, enjoy and appreciate and critique contemporary theatrical events.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Develops and understanding an appreciation for Human Aesthetic Creation and Artistic Creativity.

Required Materials:

Theatre As Human Action: An Introduction to Theatre Arts 4th Edition
By Thomas S. Hischak and Mark A. Robinson

Students will attend evening performances, tours and exhibits in London and surrounding communities. The course fee supports ticket and transportation costs.

Methods of Instructions:

Methods of instruction will include:

- In person lecture
- In class discussion
- Research projects and presentations
- Group projects
- Field trips to London and UK theatres and museums to see live theatre and performance related exhibits

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 Support Team for help in notifying instructors.

The Principal has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

This class is dependent on attending live theatrical events and participation in class discussion and presentations. Therefore, unexcused absences will result in a lowered final grade.

An unexcused absence from a scheduled field trip will result in your final grade being lowered 10% and will impact your ability to do related class work.

Final grade will be docked 5% for each unexcused absence of a class meeting time.

If you must miss a field trip for a university excused absence or illness please let me know as soon as possible so that we can come up with an alternative assignment.

Students are responsible for the academic consequences of their failure to attend class. If any assessment (e.g. in-class presentation) is missed there is no expectation or requirement that a faculty member will accept the work after it is due, provide an extension to a deadline, or offer an alternative assignment for a student with an unexcused absence.

Grading Criteria:

Since there are no textbooks or exams, students are expected to attend all lectures, performances, and class trips. It is also expected that students be actively engaged in class discussion and presentations. Students will respond individually to performances through written reflection and in-class presentations. Attendance to all performances are required.

- Attendance required, see HARLAXTON POLICY and Course Policy below
- Individual presentation(s) relating to the required performances (15%)
- One group presentation on a topic relating to the creation of a theatrical event (15%)
- Short written reflections for each play and exhibit attended (35%)
- Responses to assigned readings (20%)
- Class participation, attitude, participation, etc. (10%)
- Written course reflection at time of final (5%)

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.*

Course AI Policy:

If no AI is permitted:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.

Course Schedule:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED COURES SCHEDULE

THTR110 Course Policies

Name and Gender Pronouns:

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance and nationalities. 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 pronoun, please advise me so that I can make the appropriate changes in my records.

Universal Learning:

I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces (ZOOM, Blackboard, group chat), our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to learn and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning. Active, thoughtful, and respectful participation in all aspects of the course will make our time together as productive and engaging as possible. Please ask if you have questions.

I ask that students are aware and respectful of their classmates in all interactions.

As we embark on the study of theatre we will be viewing and discussing plays that deal with sexuality, race, immigration, and other sensitive and important topics.

University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. 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 at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu

Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu

Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

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. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Student Resources

*****ACTION:** *Recommended. Include, adapt, or remove this section as it fits with the resources that you may already link to in other places and the needs of the students in your course.*

Access the links below to connect with departments and resources that are here to support all UE students.

Academic Services: Contact the Center for Academic Advising to connect with academic support services including supplemental instruction, tutoring, and time management and study skills help.

Blackboard Guides: Blackboard is the University of Evansville's course management system for online courses. Guides on using Blackboard can be found within [MyUE](#).

Writing Center : The Writing Center provides access to writing resources, appointments for one-on-one writing help, and assistance with any stage of the writing process.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides general, short-term counseling that assists students in identifying barriers and setting goals while improving coping strategies to achieve personal and academic goals.

University Libraries: Conduct research, access resources, and contact librarians for any research related help.

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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING TRIPS ARE BOOKED

Week	In Class	Homework	Performance/Experiential Learning
Week 1	Introduction to Class and Requirements, What is Theatre?	Read Chapter 1 in Textbook, Online response: Black Board, Watch Macbeth (video provided)	
Week 2	The Play	Read Chapter 2, section 1: The Play pg 25-35, screen <i>You Can't Take It With You</i> (video provided)	
Week 3	Discuss Elements of Drama, 1st in class student presentation	Read Chapter 2, section 2: The Elements of Drama. Research play and city that we will see on first field trip.	1st LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 4	The Playwright, In class discussion and presentations focusing on the playwright and work we saw	Read Chapter 3. Online response via BlackBoard, Watch <i>FENCES</i> and <i>DEATH OF A SALES MAN</i> video provided	
Week 5	The Performers, In class student presentation preparation for 2nd Live performance	Read Chapter 4, Respond to Live performance questions on BlackBoard	2nd LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 6	The Play Makers	Read Chapter 5, Respond to reading questions on BlackBoard, Watch <i>Angles in America</i>	
Week 7	The Play Builders. Student presentation about the physical theatre space and scenic design. Student presentation in prep for live performance #3	Read Chapter 6, Respond to Live performance questions on BlackBoard	3rd LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 8	Costume and Lighting Design	Read Chapter 7. Screen <i>HAMILTON</i> . Answer reading and <i>HAMILTON</i> questions on Blackboard	
Week 9	Theatergoers. Student presentation: responsibility of audience and critic. Prep for live performance #4	Read Chapter 8, Respond to Live performance questions on BlackBoard	4th LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 10	Contemporary Evolution of Theatre	Read Chapter 9. Watch documentary <i>HAMILTON'S AMERICA</i> . Respond to reading and documentary on BlackBoard	
Week 11	In class student presentations: Preparation for performance #5	Performance response on Blackboard. Pick play form list to read and present to class	5th LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 12	Difference between UK and USA theatre landscape and funding	What is the role of theater in 2026? Who should support it? Does it serve a national "good"	
Week 13	In class student presentations: Preparation for performance #6	Performance response on Blackboard. Read and research chosen play for final project	6th LIVE PERFORMANCE
Week 14	In class student presentations: Preparation for performance #7	Organized labour and the theatre work force	7th and FINAL LIVE PERFORMANCE
	Final Presentations:	ASSIGNED FINAL EXAM PERIOD	