

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



**MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Mary's University, as a Catholic Marianist University, fosters the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

# DM 1303—THEATRE HISTORY

(syllabus extract)

Spring 2019  
Mon/Wed, 2-3:15 pm  
Treadaway Hall 200

George Kendall, M.F.A.  
Chair, Department of Drama  
Treadaway Hall 379; 210-431-8084  
gkendall1@stmarytx.edu

Office Hours: TU, TH, FRI 1:30 -3 pm  
& ZOOM by appointment  
ZOOM ID: 4700780297

---

## **Course Description**

This course studies theatre history through examination of dramatic literature in the context of performance tradition. Ranging from religious ritual of antiquity to contemporary theatre, students examine historic live performance through the textual analysis of plays, playwriting genres, production methods, historic acting styles, and overall theatre history. Students will carefully read multiple plays and via discussion and in-class scene performances, provide both scholarly analysis and performative perspectives. A key understanding is that theatre is a commentary of the social, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the time it was written.

## **Course Materials**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (plays, readings, videos, URL links will be posted to Canvas)

Ball, David. *Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*. ISBN 978-0809311101

Brecht, Bertolt. *Mother Courage and her Children*. ISBN 978-0809311101

Churchill, Caryl. *Top Girls*. ISBN: 978-0413644701

Stephens, Simon, & Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. ISBN 978-1408173350

We'll read the following plays (electronic copies available on Canvas for underlined titles)

- Antigone, by Sophocles
- Everyman by Anonymous
- Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare (local April performance by “Actors from the London Stage”)
- A Doll's House, by Henrik Ibsen
- *Mother Courage and her Children*, by Bertolt Brecht
- Rhinoceros, by Eugene Ionesco
- *Top Girls*, by Caryl Churchill
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Simon Stephens (Adaptation), Mark Haddon (book)