

# THTR 203

## Study Abroad Preparation – Swedish Theater



### LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the student will:

1. Be able to analyze a play using the Aristotelian formula.
2. Begin to formulate his/her own system of theatrical analysis based on an understanding of traditional methods.
3. Gain a more thorough knowledge of Swedish history, politics, arts, and culture.
4. Create and be able to maintain a digital blog.
5. Be able to identify elements of cultural identity.
6. Articulate his/her own cultural identity and values, and describe their impact on perception and artistic choice.
7. Be prepared to study and travel in a foreign nation.

### Course Description:

This one credit course is designed to enable students to successfully participate in the spring term study abroad course examining the theater of Sweden. In the winter term students will develop their own systematic approach for analyzing theatrical performances. During the weekly class meetings students will examine the historical, social, political, and artistic qualities that make Sweden unique, thus enabling the students to analyze how the Swedish Culture impacts theatrical performances in that country. The purpose of this one credit course is to empower students to complete detailed theatrical analyses of theatrical performances of a unique culture. Sessions will also include pre-travel training to prepare students to live and learn in a non-English speaking country.

### Course Assignments:

Students will participate in class discussions to develop their own systematic method for analyzing the quality of a theatrical performance. Students will participate in class discussions regarding the history and culture of Sweden to aid in their analysis of the performances they will view while in Sweden during the spring term. The spring term course will have two major projects. The first will be a daily blog recording each student's reactions to the cultural and theatrical activities of the day. The second project will be a written detailed analysis of one of the theatrical productions viewed while in Sweden and an oral presentation of that analysis to the class. This winter term course will help prepare the student for these projects. The final project of the winter term will be a detailed written script analysis of one of the plays that will be viewed in Sweden.

### Course Texts:

*A Concise History of Sweden* (Cambridge Concise Histories) by Neil Kent  
*Modern Day Vikings: A Practical Guide to Interacting with the Swedes*  
*The Poetics* by Aristotle

### Course Grades:

The Grade for this course will be determined using the following scale:

Attendance	10%
Class Participation	25%
Quizzes	10%
Projects	15%
<u>Script/Production Analysis</u>	<u>40%</u>

Total: 100%

**Attendance:** Due to the participatory nature of the class, regular attendance is imperative. Role will be called by the instructor at the beginning of each class, or by other means as necessary. It is the responsibility of the student who comes in late



to make sure that the instructor records his/her presence in class at the end of the period for which they are late. Failure to do so will result in an absence for that period. Students who show up for class more than twenty minutes late will be counted absent for the period. Serious illness or death within the student's immediate family, religious holidays, and participation in academic field trips and intercollegiate athletic contests are all understandable reasons for missing class. Students who need to miss class for a reason stated above should review their calendars for any conflicts with their academic schedules. Each student is responsible for discussing any schedule conflict with the instructor at the beginning of the term or as soon as possible after the student learns of the conflict. If for some reason, a student needs to miss class, please notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance via phone or email. Students who contact the instructor prior to these types of absences may not be penalized. These students have the obligation ahead of time to make the necessary arrangements for make-ups. Make-up work will not be provided for students who do not meet with the instructor prior to their absences, or for absences that do not meet the above criteria. Determination of excused and unexcused absences is the sole discretion of the instructor. In the class attendance portion of the course grade, each student will start with an "A" for attendance. Each absence will reduce the attendance grade by one letter. The instructor is not obligated to give a passing grade for the course to a student whose experience of the course has been altered substantially due to excessive absences.

***Class Participation:*** Class participation is a subjective evaluation, by the instructor, of the student's participation during class discussions and projects. The participation grade will be determined by the instructor using the following rubric:

- Does the student demonstrate growth in his/her understanding and execution of the course material? Does the student synergize the course content and criticism to refine and improve their work?
- Does the student contribute to the learning community of the class?
- Does the student have a good attitude in class? Are they eager to learn and to get involved?
- Is the student inquisitive about specific topics discussed and other materials related to the discussion? Is the student actively involved in class discussions by asking questions and by formulating and discussing his/her own opinions about course information?
- Does the student demonstrate cooperation and congeniality when working with others on group projects or during class discussions?
- Does the student come to class on time prepared to learn, having completed all reading and homework assignments and with the appropriate materials for class?

***Quizzes:*** The purpose of the quizzes is to help the student gauge his/her progress in the class and assist in the mastery of the course information. Quizzes aid the student in determining the quality of his/her understanding of class readings. Quizzes will be based on cumulative knowledge. If a student is going to be absent on the day a quiz is scheduled he/she should check with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance about rescheduling. Failure to contact the instructor before the scheduled date could result in a zero for that quiz. The instructor reserves the right to give pop-quizzes on any day a quiz is not already scheduled. Students have the opportunity to retake their quizzes, in order to demonstrate their mastery of the information, and thus improve their grade. Learning occurs when students understand their mistakes and can demonstrate their understanding, through mastery of the information. To reschedule a "do-over" quiz the student must schedule a conference with the instructor outside of class to first discuss the original quiz and material and then to schedule the "do-over" quiz. Also, in order to re-do a quiz a sufficient effort must be made on the first attempt as determined by the instructor.



Some quizzes will be given using the class toolkit on Sakai and some will be given in class.

**Projects:** There will be three projects during the term. The first project will be developing and preparing a blog page and learning the appropriate technology for completing this spring term project. Students will build the basic blog and construct four blog pages. Projects will be creating performance/script analyses of the plays *Jungle Book* and *Amadeus & Richard III*. The purpose of the projects is to further the student's mastery of the course information, by providing the means to apply the theoretical information discussed during class to hands-on exercises. Projects are due at the beginning of class on the date assigned. The due dates for each project are listed on the attached calendar. Projects turned in after the beginning of class on the date assigned will be penalized 5 points for everyday late (Weekends and Holidays included). Handouts specific to each project will be distributed at a later date.

**Script Analysis:** The final project for the course will be a detailed script analysis of one of the play produced by the Department of Theater and Dance this term. This analysis will be an in depth examination of the components of the script and will be based on the student's own system for determining the quality of a drama as developed over the course of the term. The analysis will not only contain a description of the essential elements of the production, but an in depth justification for the elements included in the student's model. Late analyses will NOT be accepted due to the class's imminent departure for Sweden. Students will present their analysis in class.

## Course Schedule:

### Meeting Number / Description

1. Class Introduction & Travel Preparation  
Reading: *Vikings* Chapters 9, 10, 11
2. Basic Language Phrases and Cultural Etiquette  
QUIZ  
A study of what makes Swedes different.  
Reading: *Vikings* Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
3. Early Swedish History  
QUIZ  
The history of Sweden from pre-history to 1800.  
Reading: *Vikings* Chapter 1  
*History* Chapters 1 - 5
4. Contemporary Swedish History  
QUIZ  
The history of Sweden from 1800 to present.  
Reading: *Vikings* Chapter 2  
*History* Chapters 6 - 10
5. Blogging Tutorial
6. Developing an Analytical Structure  
QUIZ  
Reading: *The Poetics*
7. View *Play* & Discuss

**QUIZ**Reading: *Play*

8. *Play* Analysis
9. View *Play* & Discuss

**QUIZ**Reading: *Play*

10. Play Analysis
11. Blogging Projects Due/Presentations
12. Script Analysis Presentations

**Open Door Policy:**

I have an open door policy regarding the grades for the course as well as material related to the course or to theater in general. If at any time a student needs to talk with me concerning grades, quizzes, theater, etc., the student should meet with me after class to set up an appointment or call either my office phone 540.458.8014 or cell phone 434.409.3752. My office is located on the third floor of the Lenfest Center, room 307.

**Classroom Accommodations:**

Any student who feels that he/she may need to discuss individual accommodations should make an appointment to see the instructor during office hours. Students requiring accommodations should present the instructor a copy of a signed letter from the Dean's office stating the student's needs. Accommodations and disabilities will be held in the strictest confidence. Students may meet with the instructor after class to set up a confidential appointment to discuss accommodations. If a student has questions about accommodations, he/she may find more information by contacting the Dean of the College, Washington Hall 24, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia 24450, (540) 458-8746.

**Technology:**

Cell phones must be off during class. iPod use is not permitted during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking or class work. Unauthorized text messaging, chatting, or checking email will result in loss of privilege.

**Honor System:**

The honor system here at W&L is important to me, and I find it a pleasure to teach students who have honor and value their word. All work for this course falls under the honor system. I believe a student is as good as their word.

**\* Subject to Change:**

This syllabus, calendar, and attachments merely present the course offerings, requirements, and policies in effect at the time of publication, and in no way guarantee that the offerings, requirements, and policies will not change. The instructor specifically reserves the right to change requirements or policies at any time during the course. Whenever changes occur in the course, students will be notified in class. Changes will also be posted on the class web site.

**Class Web Sites:**

<https://sakai.wlu.edu>

**Instructor Web Site:**

<http://home.wlu.edu/~evanss>

**Instructor Info:**

Shawn Paul Evans

Office: 307 Lenfest Center

Email: [evanss@wlu.edu](mailto:evanss@wlu.edu)

Office Phone: 540.458.8014

Cell Phone: 434.409.3752

**Office Hours:**

MW 10:00-12:00 & TT 9-10  
or by appointment.