### Independent Study in Contemporary European Theatre – THTR 495  
Summer 2019

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<th>Class time:</th>
<th>8:30-10:25 am</th>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Faculty:</th>
<th>Eric Renschler</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contact details:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:er55@evansville.edu">er55@evansville.edu</a></td>
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| Office hours: | I am available immediately after class for as long as needed. You may also make an afternoon appointment at that time. |

### Course 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.

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 or Europe. Designers, Directors, Actors, Historians and Dramaturgs are all welcome. Group and independent travel required.

### Credit Hour Policy Statement

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of:

- Other academic activities – e.g. 3 hours of supervised independent study per week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 hours for each credit.

### General Education Objective

none

### Learning Objectives

Listed below are the Learning Objectives for the course:

- To identify a topic of personal interest in contemporary European Theatre.
- To explore independently this area of interest, formulate a thesis, and present findings to class cohort and students of THTR 110.

### Further Information about the Course

To be completed as field trips are finalized.
### Schedule of topics

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

### Teaching Methods

**Key Text(s):**

none

**Other Class Materials:**

Individual research materials, travel, museum and theatre tickets as needed

**Teaching Methods:**

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

### Schedule of Assignments

Students will travel to London on the first weekend 30 May – 2 June, where they will attend theatre performances with THTR 110 and independently explore the theatre collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

(Insert schedule of trips upon confirmation)

Students will attend the **2019 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**, where the scenographic work of more than 60 countries is organized in national exhibits, and travel independently to pursue their individual research goals. Students should also plan to attend performances throughout the UK with THTR 110 Introduction to Theatre.

Each student will identify an additional independent course of exploration throughout Britain or Europe.

### Assessment and 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.

(25%) Student reflections on performances attended.

(5%) Student reflection on the V&A Museum.

(25%) Student reflection on the Prague Quadrennial.

(25%) Student reflections on independent travel and research.

(20%) Final presentation of research.
**Attendance Policy**

Harlaxton College operates a mandatory attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students.

In the Summer Semester only ONE unexcused absence will be allowable. Additional unexcused absences will attract an overall grade penalty of a third-of-a-letter grade for each unexcused absence (e.g. one additional unexcused absence would result in an A- being reduced to a B+).

Students are responsible for the academic consequences of their failure to attend class.

**Drop/Add and Withdrawal Policy**

The course is subject to the UE drop/add policy as modified to apply to a summer semester of study in the UK context.

**Disability Policy**

It is the policy of the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. University of Evansville students should contact the Office of Counselling and Health Education to seek help with this. Students from Partner Universities/Colleges should contact their own relevant student support office. For assistance whilst at Harlaxton students should contact the College Secretary whose office is located adjacent to the Principal’s office.

Written notification to faculty from the College Secretary is required for academic accommodations to be implemented.

**Honor Code**

All students at the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) agree to and are bound by the principles and practice of the honor code:

‘I understand that any work I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to this Academic Honor Code: I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.’

The full Honor Code is available online:

[https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf](https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf)