

HIS 300
Staging History

Satisfies: GLO, SBS+

Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: Christina Hurtado-Pierson

Who lives, who dies, who tells your story? Theatre has the ability to bring history to life in a uniquely engaging way... but not all plays are created equal. Like any historian, a playwright chooses how they dramatize someone's life, an event, or a piece of history. Plays not only tell stories, they also teach us about the societies that create them. In "Staging History," we'll look at how theatre can document a moment in history as it happens, how it makes sense of history after the fact, and how the playwright's own experiences shape the retelling of history. We will engage with three theatrical productions, explore the history they cover, and try to decide what an audience (or scholar) can get out of the experience. Warning: there will be musicals!

Grading will be based on three short reflection papers and one deep dive into a play of your choice.