



Instructor: Bradley Rogers

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Course Number: DRE344H5F

Course Title: 19th Century American Theatre

Course description: This course will study 19th century American theatre, focusing on the popular melodrama. We'll begin by reading some classic melodramas alongside staging manuals, so that we can reconstruct in our minds the experiences of the audiences for whom these plays and performances were so meaningful. We will focus on the relationship between theatre, popular culture, and industrialization; the nostalgia for "nature"; the relationship between melodrama and realism; the formation of "race" as a meaningful category; pathos and the family; and immigrant identity and assimilation. We'll conclude by considering how the themes of 19th century melodrama persist in popular culture today.

Required Reading:

TBA, likely:

Dion Boucicault, *Poor of New York*

George Aiken (& Harriet Beecher Stowe), *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

James Herne, *Margaret Fleming*

Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon*

John Augustus Stone, *Metamora*

Augustin Daly, *Under the Gaslight*

David Belasco, *Girl of the Golden West*

Course Reader

Continued...

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Boucicault, Brooks, Grimsted

Method of Instruction:

Discussion & Lecture

Method of Evaluation:

Annotated Bibliography; Short Essay; Midterm; Final