

Course Outline Introduction to Theatre

Course Description: TA206. Introduction to Theatre. 3 credit hours. This course will enable the student to identify the basic elements common to all theatre. The student will be able to make appropriate written and/or spoken criticism of the value and merit of individual examples of theatrical performance according to the critical standards presented in the course. The student will be able to read and discuss a play script in terms of its theatrical merit, demands, and potential as a piece of theatrical performance according to the script analysis principles presented in the course. The student will be able to identify and define distinguishing elements and characteristics of theatrical art as it was presented in the major historical periods of theatre as surveyed in the course. Additionally, the student will be able to identify and discuss briefly the elements and principles involved in the practice of the various component activities in theatrical art including theatre architecture, production, direction, acting, scenic design, costume design, lighting design, makeup, sound and multimedia.

Course Relevance: Upon completion of this course the student will:

- Have an appreciation for theatrical aesthetics.
- Have the opportunity to pose responsible and informed responses to diverse forms of entertainment and cultural events.
- Have the foundation to be a positive contributor to the vitality of the artistic community.

Required Materials: Textbook: Cohen, Robert. *Theatre*. (Sixth Edition). McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Learning Outcomes: The intention is for the student to be able to understand theatre as an art form and appreciate the discipline from a broader insight and tolerance.

Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and/or documented in this course:

Through the student involvement in this course, they will develop and document their achievement of the following PACT skills:

1. Critical Thinking
 - Through analysis of theatrical literature the student will demonstrate basic principles involved in effective and appropriate theatrical criticism.
2. Historical Interpretation
 - Through exposure to different eras and the theatrical forms they reflect, the student will demonstrate a grasp of historical conventions.
3. Aesthetic Response
 - Through the attendance and response to live theatrical productions the student will develop an appreciation for the construction of theatrical literature, the

- actors' performances, directorial and design concept and the immediacy of live performance.
- Through the viewing of and response to filmed theatrical productions the student will develop an appreciation for the construction of theatrical literature, the actors' performances and the directorial and design concept.
4. Reading
 - Through a variety of reading assignments – from the required text and outside reading material – the student will demonstrate reading skills.
 5. Writing
 - Through written responses of assigned theatrical literature, filmed performances and live performances the student will demonstrate writing skills.
 6. Listening
 - Through a series of classroom lectures and performance attendance the student will demonstrate listening skills.
 7. Speaking
 - Through assigned oral presentations the student will demonstrate speaking skills.

Assessment Tasks: These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by:

1. Attendance of and written response, utilizing the six elements of theatre, to a minimum of two live theatrical productions.
2. Written responses, utilizing the six elements of theatre, of selected filmed theatrical productions.
3. Oral response, utilizing the six elements of theatre, of an assigned piece of theatrical literature.
4. A presentation of a project that shows an understanding of a on technical element of a production.

Course Content:

Themes: Key recurring concepts that run throughout the course:

- Art & aesthetics
- Components of theatre
- Appreciation for human dignity and worth.
- Entertainment value

Issues:

- Art vs. entertainment
- Following rules vs. breaking rules
- Form vs. function

Concepts: That must be understood to address the issues:

- Aristotle's six elements of theatre
- Theatrical genres
- Distinguishing characteristics of major historical periods:

- Ancient
- Middle ages
- Renaissance
- Modern

Skills: By the end of the course, the student will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Identify the basic elements of theatre which distinguish it from other art forms.
2. Identify and be knowledgeable of the basic history of theatre – from ancient Greeks to the present.
3. Identify the basic elements, purposes and functions of the various component parts of the theatrical production.
4. Identify the basic principles involved in effective and appropriate theatrical criticism.
5. Identify the basic building units of a play script form.

Learning Units:

1. The Theatrical Elements
2. The Theatrical Past & Present
3. The Actor/Designer & Technicians/Director
4. The Critic
5. The Playwright