



THEA 1013

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Theater Arts

Course: THEA 1013

Title: Survey of Theatre

Catalog Description:

This course is an introduction to the literature, genre, conventions and style of drama as art and performance craft. It provides students with an overview of historical and contemporary theatrical practices.

General Education Requirements: Fine Arts

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 3

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Justification:

This course is offered by most theatre departments throughout the state as a lower-division credit. It serves as a general education credit for graduation. It also serves as an elective credit for graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The objective of this course is to provide the student with a greater knowledge of how the theatre works and to develop an appreciation of the theatre as a collaborative art form, as literature, as a profession, and as a means of presenting new ideas. The student should also gain a subsequent understanding of theatrical history and production practices.

Content:

This course will include, lectures, class discussion, play readings, videos, written responses, critiques and group presentations. Topics taught in this class will include:

- What is The Theatre?
- What is a Play?
- Greek and Roman Theatre
- Theatre of The Middle Ages
- The Shakespearean era
- Theatre of Asia
- The Royal Theatre
- The Modern Theatre (Realism)
- The Modern Theatre (Anti-Realism)
- The Musical Theatre

- Contemporary Theatre
- The Actor
- The Director
- Designers and Technicians
- The Playwright
- The Critic

In addition, students will be required to read selected plays representative of each dramatic period covered in class. Such plays could include but not be limited to:

- *Oedipus the King*
- The Corpus Christie Plays
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *The Bourgeois Gentleman*
- *The Three Sisters*
- *Happy Days*

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Each student will be required to read the textbook and selected plays. Quizzes and exams will be given to test their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. In-class discussions are designed assess the students deeper understanding and critical thinking skills (e.g., how are the themes of fate and free will expressed in *Oedipus the King*? How does Samuel Beckett explore the plight of the aged in *Happy Days*?)

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students will be asked to evaluate plays read in class through a series of written responses. They will also be required to write critiques of live performances produced by the theatre department. These responses are based on criteria that will be examined in class lectures and textbook reading. The students written responses will be evaluated and returned to the students with suggestions for improvement. These suggestions would include but not be limited to: mechanics, spelling and suggestions for writing more in-depth responses. It is expected that students will employ these suggestions in subsequent written responses.

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will be expected to participate in oral group presentations on specific selected topics. Presentations will be evaluated on the basis of a set standard of criteria established by the instructor. These written evaluations will be returned with suggestions for improvement based on the given criteria. In addition, students will evaluate their own presentations as to its overall effectiveness. It is expected that students will employ these suggestions and their own conclusions in subsequent presentations.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

One of the objectives of this course is to provide historical context to a variety of theatrical genres and styles. Students should be able to understand the historical context in which various periods of theatre developed.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

All students should be able to respond to any work of art in an articulate manner. In particular, students should be able to respond to a theatrical piece both as art and as entertainment.

Key Performance Indicators:

Each student will be evaluated on:

- Written responses to plays read in class: 20% of the final grade
- reading/lecture quizzes: 14% of the final grade
- 4 exams: 40% of the final grade
- Group Presentations: 13% of the final grade
- 2 Live performance critiques: 13% of the final grade

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Theatre. Robert Cohen, Mayfield Publishers, current edition.

Eight Plays for The Theatre. Robert Cohen, ed., Mayfield Publishers, current edition.

Optimum Class Size: 25

Maximum Class Size: 35

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Theater Arts Department:

Kim Christison, PhD, Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)