

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

THTR 1101: Introduction to the Theatre

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

(MnTC Goals 2 and 6)

Survey of popular forms of drama. The course is designed to increase students' understanding of theatre as an art form and cultural influence. It examines dramatic structure and style, acting and directing, theatre design and architecture from a contemporary and historical perspective. Students will view and critique two or more play productions.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1998 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The social and historical context of the theater, including exploration of the history and evolution of theater ritual performance, and other cultural expression
2. Dramatic text and literature and the analysis of such pieces
3. The elements of performance and of different theater spaces
4. Actor preparation and training
5. The roles and duties of different theater artists involved in a production
6. Functions of stage, lighting, and costume design
7. Theater criticism
8. Roles of the director, producer, and critic
9. Live theater, experiencing the theater arts in practice and engaging with theater artists

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Articulate the ways in which theater has evolved and has been an integral part of culture and society throughout history, and how theater has been shaped by - and has shaped - the culture and society in which it was created
2. Analyze, research and evaluate dramatic literature both by reading scripts and by viewing performances. Understand the influence each particular society has on the playwrights and the major themes within their work
3. Define and analyze performance elements, different theater spaces, and the various collaborators needed for a theatrical production, including producers, directors, designers, actors, technicians, etc.
4. Evaluate and articulate an informed response to live theater productions, utilizing knowledge and skills gained
5. Explain the nature of entertainment using psychological theories that explains the emotional involvement in theatre, including the role of illusion and suspension of disbelief
6. Identify and analyze use of common dramatic conventions
7. Identify examples for each of Aristotle's six characteristics of drama and distinguish between various genres of theatre
8. Explain the physical characteristics, staging practices, acting practices, and social and religious influences on audiences of Greek, Medieval, and Elizabethan Theatre
9. Recognize typical dramatic structure in Greek drama
10. Identify three Greek tragic playwrights and one comic playwright
11. Identify Stanislavski's theories of acting and explain how they influenced modern American acting
12. Distinguish between proscenium, arena, thrust, and experimental stage
13. Identify the characteristics of nonrealistic twentieth century styles of production (including expressionism, epic, and theatre of the absurd) and explain their influences on modern production practice
14. Identify the functions of design and create an original response in design to text studied
15. Identify themes and works created by playwrights from different cultural and racial backgrounds
16. View a play and express an informed personal, critical reaction to particular elements of the specific production, including its classification of dramatic structure, style, and genre, as well as the ways in which the performers and designers may have interpreted the author's intent

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

Additional Fee to Student: 2 tickets to professional theatrical productions