Drama (DRAM) 1510 Introduction to Theatre (3 Units) CSU:UC  
[formerly Drama 10]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 or concurrent enrollment strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course focuses on the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history, and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces elements of the production process including playwriting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. This course will also survey different periods, styles and genres of theatre through play reading, discussion, films and viewing and critiquing live theatre, including required attendance of theatre productions. C-ID: THTR 111

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text:


Additional Instructional Materials: Journal articles made available through the Library or at the class website, various materials for presentation such as presentation board.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society,
2. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical contexts in which theatre exists,
3. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances,
4. Identify and examine theatrical components in production,
5. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations, and
6. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.
Course Scope and Content:

Unit I  What is Theatre?
A. The Theatre Building
B. The Company, or Troupe of Players
C. The Occupation of Theatre
D. Classifying Plays
E. Dramaturgy: The Construction of Drama and the Dramatic Performance

Unit II  The Ancients
A. Ritual, Storytelling, Shamanism
B. The Beginnings of Traditional Drama
C. The Greek Theatre
   1. Origins and Evolution
   2. The Birth of the Dythramb
   3. The Classic Period
   4. The Theatron, The Spectacle, The City Dionysia
   5. Greek Plays and Playwrights: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides
D. The Roman Theatre
   1. Roman Plays and Playwrights: Terrance, Plautus, Seneca
   2. Origins of Domestic Comedy

Unit III  The Middle Ages
A. Out of the Church
B. The York Cycle
C. Medieval Morality Plays

Unit IV  The Renaissance
A. The Shakespearean Era and Elizabethan London
B. The Plays of Shakespeare
C. Renaissance Theatre in Italy and Spain

Unit V  The Theatre of Asia
A. The Drama of India
B. Chinese Opera: Xiqu
C. The Drama of Japan
D. Asian Theatre Today

Unit VI  The Royal Era
A. Theatre for Courts and Kings
B. The French Theatre
C. England: Restoration Theatre

Unit VII  The Modern Theatre: Realism
A. Romantic Beginnings
B. Realism: Likeness to Life
C. American Realism

Unit VIII  The Modern Theatre: Antirealism
A. Symbolist Beginnings
Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Reading the assigned readings in the text, plays and journal articles
2. Studying for the quizzes and exams
3. Researching the individual topic for the presentation or paper
4. Creating a design project of a theatrical text, which will include the elements of costume, lighting, set, sound design, and casting choices.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Class discussion on the current topics
2. Small group work on a group presentation
3. Field trips to attend live theatrical performances

Methods of Evaluation:
1 Written assignments
2 Objective quizzes
3 Essay midterm and final exams
4 Individual research paper or project or group presentation on research topic

Supplemental Data:

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<th>T.O.P. Code:</th>
<th>100700 Dramatic Arts</th>
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<td>E: Non-Occupational</td>
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