

COURSE OUTLINE

**Theatre Arts 102 (C-ID Number: THTR 113)
Theatre History (C-ID Title: Theater History I)**

I. Catalog Statement

Theatre Arts 102 is a survey of the history of the theatre through its major influences concentrating on Greek, Roman, Renaissance, Elizabethan, Restoration, and Modern eras. The history and development of theatre are studied in relationship to the cultural, political, and social conditions for the time.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 1.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. critique and evaluate the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical developments that bear upon the theatre's present state;
2. analyze the role of the theatre arts and its relationship to other parts of society;
3. identify the representative historical periods in which theatre functioned as a major force in the life of the times;
4. identify the origins of specific theatrical terminology, production practices, scenic devices, and performance/ production styles;
5. demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills such as listening, reasoning, analysis and criticism when reading or viewing plays;
6. outline the historical development of theatre from the Greeks through Modern eras;
7. confirm the value and role of theatre arts in culture and society.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours=48

A. Introduction to Theatre

4 hours

1. Theory of "ritual origin"

2. The human's mimic impulse

- B. Greek Theatre 4 hours
1. The development of the ritual, the dithyramb
 2. The beginnings of tragedy
 3. The great festivals
 4. The physical development of the Greek stage
- C. Roman and Medieval Theatre 4 hours
1. Roman "improvements" of Greek plays
 2. Spectacle and engineering in Roman drama
 3. The physical aspects of the Roman theatre
 4. The decline of Roman theatre with the rise of Christianity
 5. Reading: a Roman comedy
 6. The Byzantine Theatre
 7. Medieval church drama
- D. Asian Theatre 4 hours
1. Origins of theatrical traditions of Japan, China and South Asia
 2. Text Analysis
 3. Development of theatrical space
 4. Cultural development of specific theatrical practices
- E. The Italian Renaissance 5 hours
1. The fall of Constantinople and the rediscovery of the works of classical drama
 2. Commedia dell'arte
 3. Italian theatre architecture and scenery
- F. The Elizabethan Theatre 6 hours
1. The Elizabethan world view
 2. The Elizabethan playhouse
 3. Marlowe, Jonson, and Shakespeare
 4. Inigo Jones and the Italian influence
 5. The Jacobean Theatre
 6. The closing of the theatres
- G. The Golden Age in France and Spain. 5 hours
1. The corrales (Rueda)
 2. Lope de Vega, Calderon, and Alarcon
 3. Reading: from Spanish theatre
 4. Le Cid marks the beginning of French Theatre
 5. Tragedy and Comedy in France: Racine and Moliere
- H. The Restoration in England 5 hours
1. "Improvements" of Shakespeare and plays with music
 2. Comedy of Manners

3. The English theatre, architecture
4. Restoration dramas (Otway)
5. Melody drama

- I. Eighteenth Century Drama 5 hours
1. Carolina Neuber and German realism
 2. Lessing, Gottsched and Miss Sara Sampson
 3. Goethe and the influence of Shakespeare
 4. George Lillo and middle class tragedy
- J. Nineteenth Century and Modern Drama 6 hours
1. The "revivals" of the early nineteenth century
 2. Actors dominate
 3. American theatre develops from the English
 4. Ibsen, Chekhov, Strindberg, and Shaw

V. Methods of Instruction

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and discussion;
2. written research assignments;
3. student projects (e.g. group dramaturgical projects using dramatic literature for historical period);
4. multimedia presentations;
5. reading assignments.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

1. observations of two or more theatrical productions;
2. creating content in preparation for in-class individual or group presentations;
3. research and writing assignments (e.g. research paper exploring the historical relevance of a play, playwright, designer).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

1. examinations (multiple choice, short answer, essay);
2. written work (e.g. essays, critiques, research paper);
3. individual and group projects (e.g. research project and group presentation on the historical influences of a particular time period, play, or playwright of a designated historical period. "Did William Shakespeare Really Write His Plays?");
4. oral participation or presentation (e.g. analyzing, identifying, evaluating, justifying and supporting facts, philosophies and theories concerning the works of the major playwrights and the relationship of the theatre to the historical, political, and religious events of the times. "Euripedes and Greek Theatre").

VIII. Textbook(s)

Hartnoll, P. *Theatre (A Concise History)* 4th edition. Thames and Hudson: 2012. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0500204092.

Or

Wilson and Goldfarb. *Living Theatre, History of the Theatre*. 6th edition.
New York: McGraw Hill: 2011. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0073514123.

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the historical periods in which theatre functioned as a major force in the life and times;
2. Compare and contrast historical periods with current theatrical practices and conditions.