

COURSE OUTLINE

Theatre Arts 101 (C-ID Number: THTR 111) Introduction to Theatre (C-ID Title: Introduction to Theatre)

I. Catalog Statement

Theatre Arts 101 introduces students to elements of the theatre arts production process as a collaborative art form including playwriting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. While exploring its elements, practices, and collaborators, its historical, social, political, and economic context is examined.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Prerequisite: None.

Note: During the semester, students are expected to attend professional and Glendale Community College Theatre Arts Department productions as a part of the learning process.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 4; Math 1.

III. Course Exit Standards

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

1. assess live theatre as a dynamic form in comparison to recorded performances and other art forms;
2. analyze the various components of a theatrical performance;
3. evaluate the effectiveness of theatrical techniques in performance;
4. define general theatre terminology;
5. identify major periods of theatre history and important dramatists of each major historical period;
6. distinguish between the play as literature and the play as performed;
7. analyze playwriting in terms of structure, style, and genre;
8. explore cultural contributions to theatre;

9. examine the influence of culture and the social, political, and economic factors that contribute to theatre trends and practices;
10. identify occupations in theatre and the relation to the collaborative process.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours

A. The Origins of Theatre	6 hours
1. Rituals of ancient theatre	
2. Greek and Roman theatre	
3. Eastern theatre forms	
B. Theatre Throughout History: Greek through Experimental Theatre	15 hours
1. Theatre spaces and playhouses	
a. Configurations	
b. Innovations	
c. Scenic devices	
d. Lighting	
e. Special effects	
2. Theatre styles and form	
3. Plays and playwrights	
C. Theatre Criticism	6 hours
1. Theatre etiquette	
2. Evaluation of a production	
3. Evaluation of a play	
4. Differences within other art forms	
D. Play Structure	6 hours
1. Aristotelian structure (<i>The Poetics</i>)	
a. Plot	
b. Character	
c. Theme	
d. Diction	
e. Melody	
f. Spectacle	
2. Genre	
a. Comedy	
b. Tragedy	
E. Occupations of Theatre	9 hours
1. Theatre as a collaborative art	
2. Director	
3. Playwright	
4. Actor	
5. Designer	
a. Costume	

- b. Scenery
- c. Lighting
- d. Sound
- e. Make up
- f. Multi-media and projection
6. Technical Director
7. Production Manager
8. Theatre management
9. Marketing
10. Producer

F. Student Presentation: Final Project

6 hours

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. lecture, discussion, demonstration;
2. media presentations;
3. individual and group exercises;
4. attendance at live theatrical productions.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

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

1. creating content in preparation for in-class group presentations;
2. research and writing assignments addressing a topic relative to the course content;
3. critiques (e.g. critique the live theatrical production of *Hamlet*);
4. group project (e.g. a business/production plan for an assigned play).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

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

1. essays/written assignment
2. quizzes;
3. midterm examination;
4. group presentation; (e.g. a business or production plan on a play followed by a presentation or analysis to the class);
5. final examination.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Wilson, Edwin. *Theatre the Lively Art*, 8th edition. New York: McGraw Hill. 2010.
Print.

14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0073382167

Barranger, Millie. *Theatre: A Way of Seeing*. 6th edition. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth Higher Education. 2004. Print.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0495005967.

Cohen, Robert. *Theatre: A Brief Version*. 9th edition. McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences. 2010. Print.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-10: 0077333519

Additional play scripts can be assigned for study and analysis.

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. identify major periods of theatre history and the dramatists from that period;
2. identify the elements of theatre;
3. define general theatre terminology;
4. analyze the components of a theatrical performance.