

COURSE OUTLINE

Theatre Arts 102

**I. Catalog Statement**

Theatre Arts 102 – Theatre History - 3 units

Prerequisite: None

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.

Lecture 3 hours

**II. Objectives**

The students will be able to:

1. assess the historical developments that bear upon the theatre's present state;
2. evaluate man's aspirations and thought about himself and his environment as expressed through his theatre;
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. apply the knowledge gained from Objectives #3 and #4 to a better understanding of current practices;
6. evaluate the contributions of theatre's past as they affect the current theatrical condition.

**III. Text**

A Concise History of the Theatre, Phyllis Hartnoll (Current Edition)

**IV. Course Outline**

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|---|---------|
| A. Introduction to Theatre                      | 4 hours |
| 1. Theory of "ritual origin"                    |         |
| 2. The human's mimic impulse                    |         |
| B. Greek Theatre                                | 5 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
  5. Reading assignments: a Greek tragedy and comedy
- C. Roman and Medieval Theatre 7 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
  8. Reading: a morality play
- D. 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
  4. Reading: from Commedia (Goldoni)
- E. 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
  7. Readings: Shakespeare and Jacobean tragedy
- F. 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
  6. Reading: from Moliere
- G. 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
  6. Readings from Otway and Congreve
- H. 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
  5. Readings: Middle class tragedy

- I. 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
  5. Readings: Modern drama

V. Examination/Evaluation Procedures

1. Graded evaluations of writing assignments, research projects, and examinations with essay-style questions which require the student to apply the knowledge and analytical abilities developed through required reading, class discussions and assignments.
2. Personal evaluation of student's class oral participation in 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.
3. Graded evaluation of weekly quizzes dealing with the assigned reading materials prior to the subject being covered in class.