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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:

Wilson, Edwin, Alvin Goldfarb. *Theater, the Lively Art*. 8th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2012. Print.

Cohen, Robert. *Theatre*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2014. Print.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in The Sun*. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1959. Print.

Shakespeare, William, *Hamlet*, New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1993. Print.

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 Dithyramb
 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: Terrence, 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

- B. The Era of Isms
- C. Postwar Alienation and Absurdity
- D. Future directions in Anti-realistic Theatre

- Unit IX The Actor
- A. What is Acting
 - B. The Stanislavsky Legacy
 - C. The Actor's Routine
- Unit X The Playwright
- A. The Qualities of Fine Plays
 - B. The Playwright's Process
- Unit XI Designers and Technicians
- A. The Design Process
 - B. Scenery
 - C. Lighting
 - D. Costumes and Makeup
 - E. Sound
 - F. Special Effects
- Unit XII The Director
- A. A Historical Overview
 - B. The Directing Process
- Unit XIII The Critic
- A. Critical Perspective
 - B. Critical Focus

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:



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- 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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| T.O.P. Code: | 100700 Dramatic Arts |
| Sam Priority Code: | E: Non-Occupational |
| Funding Agency: | Y: Not Applicable |
| Program Status: | 1: Program Applicable |
| Noncredit Category: | Y: Not Applicable |
| Special Class Status: | N: Course is not a special class |
| Basic Skills Status: | N: Not Applicable |
| Prior to College Level: | Y: Not Applicable |
| Cooperative Work Experience: | N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program |
| Eligible for Credit by Exam: | No |
| Eligible for Pass/No Pass: | Yes |