Introduction to Theater
Common Course Outline

Course Information
Organization: South Central College
Revision History: 2008-2009
Course Number: THTR100
Division: Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department: Speech
Total Credits: 3

Description
This course introduces students to the study of theater as a performance art rather than as literature. Course content will focus primarily on the collaboration between the creative, artistic, and technical elements in a dramatic production. The evolution of theater from ancient to modern times will also be considered. Class activities will include lecture/discussions, attendance at live performances, and guided tours of local theater plants. Assignments will take the form of reading, written critical evaluations of live and recorded performances, quizzes, and student presentations.

Types of Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction Type</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>3</td>
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Prerequisites
CPT Writing Score of at least 66 or else successful completion of Writing and English II (ENGL 0090)

Exit Learning Outcomes

Core Abilities
A. Communication
B. Critical Thinking
C. Citizenship

External Standards
GOAL 6. The HUMANITIES--THE ARTS, LITERATURE, AND PHILOSOPHY To expand students’ knowledge of the human condition and human cultures. especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought.

Competencies
1. Determine the value of theater as a vital element of contemporary culture
   Learning Objectives
   a. Recognize theater as an instrument of social commentary and change
   b. Recognize that people of diverse cultures use theater used as a form of artistic expression
   c. Recognize theater as a vehicle for intercultural communication
2. Explore the collaborative process of creating theater
Learning Objectives
a. Explain how live theater needs the collaboration of the writer and the performer
b. Explain that a dramatic production requires the collaboration of art and technology

3. **Analyze the role of the audience**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Explain the importance of audience participation in a performance
   b. Explain how audience response influences the outcome of a production

4. **Identify the role of the theater critic**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Develop an awareness of aesthetic criteria for evaluating performances
   b. Distinguish between descriptive and prescriptive criticism
   c. Provide constructive criticism of live and recorded performances

5. **Visualize a play script as a blueprint for a live performance**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Explore the playwright’s task in creating the script
   b. Discover how the playwright determines his/her subject and purpose
   c. Discover how the playwright creates the elements of drama

6. **Classify the types of theater genres**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Outline the characteristics of tragedy
   b. Outline the characteristics of comedy
   c. Outline the characteristics of melodrama

7. **Differentiate between the architectural features of various theater spaces**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Examine the historical significance of various types of stages
   b. List the characteristics of various types of stages
   c. Determine how playing spaces influence a performance

8. **Assess the significance of the director**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the duties of the stage director
   b. Describe the responsibilities of the stage director
   c. Explain how stage direction influences the interpretation of the play script

9. **Discuss the importance of the actor**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the duties of the stage actor
   b. Describe the responsibilities of the stage actor
   c. Explain how stage acting influences the interpretation of the play script

10. **Discuss the importance of the set designer**
    Learning Objectives
    a. Describe the purpose of stage set design
    b. Describe the elements of stage set design
    c. Give examples of the effect of stage set design on the production as a whole

11. **Identify the contribution of the stage construction crew**
    Learning Objectives
a. Describe the purpose of stage set construction
b. List the tools and materials used in stage set construction
c. Give examples of the effect of stage set construction on the production as a whole

12. **Identify the responsibilities of the lighting designer**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the purpose of stage lighting
   b. Trace the process of lighting for the stage
   c. Give examples of the effect of stage lighting on the production as a whole

13. **Identify the responsibilities of the sound designer**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the purpose of sound effects and music
   b. Trace the process of sound designing for the stage
   c. Give examples of the effect of sound effects and music on the production as a whole

14. **Identify the responsibilities of the costume designer**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the purpose of stage costumes
   b. Trace the process of costuming for the stage
   c. Give examples of the effect of stage costumes on the production as a whole

15. **Identify the responsibilities of the make-up artist**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the purpose of stage make-up
   b. Trace the process of applying make-up for the stage
   c. Give examples of the effect of stage make-up in a production

16. **Estimate the artistic and literary skills required for a career in the theater**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Recognize the educational preparation for a career as an actor
   b. Recognize the educational preparation for a career as a director in the theater
   c. Recognize the educational preparation for a career as a designer in the theater

17. **Estimate the requirements for production support staff in the theater**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Describe the career preparation for a sound and light technician
   b. Describe the career preparation for construction and facilities management
   c. Describe the career preparation for business management in theater (box office, sales, publicity)

18. **Review selected periods of theater history**
   Learning Objectives
   a. Trace the evolution of theater from ancient to modern times
   b. Identify major features of selected periods in world theater
   c. Identify major features of contemporary American theater