THTR 101
Introduction to the Theatre
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

THTR 101 – Introduction to the Theatre: Students explore the theatrical experience by studying theatre's relationship to and impact on culture. Students examine how theatre-makers connect to an audience in various times and places using evolving tools and aesthetics. Along with scholarship, students experiment creatively with the major collaborative aspects of a theatrical production.

Co-requisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyze the impact of theatre on past and contemporary cultures;
2. identify major components of dramatic structure;
3. deconstruct a script to uncover plot structure, character development and socio-political themes, especially those of marginalized and minoritized groups;
4. describe major theatrical innovations across history and cultures;
5. describe the responsibilities of theatre's main collaborators including playwrights, actors, directors, stage managers, and designers;
6. analyze major technological innovations that have impacted contemporary theatre;
7. discuss marginalized and minoritized individuals and how they are represented on stage;
8. critique a theatrical production's content and aesthetic using appropriate theatre vocabulary;
9. find, evaluate, use, and cite credible academic sources when analyzing a play's content or aesthetic;
10. demonstrate a number of acting techniques from around the world;
11. demonstrate the fundamental components of playwriting including structure, character development, and exposition;
12. demonstrate basic elements of the directing process;
13. demonstrate the basic steps of the theatrical design process to represent a specific culture;
14. discuss the ethics of intellectual property and copyright as it relates to theatrical professions;
15. collaborate with others to demonstrate a theatrical technique or concept; and
16. incorporate modern audiovisual technology into experiments with and analyses of theatre.

Major Topics

I. Basic Play Analysis

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

a. Episodic vs. Climactic Plot Structure
b. Identifying Themes and Character
c. Identifying Physical, Artistic, and Technical Elements

II. Dramatic Theory
    a. Early Theories Around the World
        i. Aristotle's Poetics
        ii. The Natyashastra
        iii. Zeami Motokiyo
    b. Concepts of Representation: "Imitating Reality" vs. Theatricality
    c. Contemporary Theories Around the World
        i. Post-Colonial
        ii. Feminist
        iii. Queer Studies

III. Playwriting
    a. Play Structure
    b. Character Development
    c. Dialogue & Exposition

IV. Acting
    a. International Theories of Actor Training
    b. Basic Acting Terminology
    c. Actor Preparation

V. Directing
    a. Approaches to Directing
    b. The Director's Process

VI. Theatrical Design
    a. The Design Process
    b. Scenic Design
    c. Costume Design
    d. Lighting Design
    e. Sound & Projection Design
    f. Design Technologies

VII. Theatre & Society
    a. Theatre's Impact on Society
    b. Confronting Issues of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Theatre
    c. Representation in Theatre: Stereotypes vs. Complexity

VIII. Theatre History
    a. Major Western Eras
        i. Greek
        ii. Roman
        iii. Elizabethan
    b. Major Eastern Eras
        i. Sanskrit Drama
        ii. Noh
        iii. Kabuki
        iv. Chinese Opera
    c. 20th and 21st Century Theatrical Trends
    d. Theatre for Social Justice

Course Requirements

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Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Scholarly or creative projects in at least four of the following production elements. At least one such project must include a diversity component.
    - Acting
    - Directing
    - Light Design
    - Sound Design
    - Playwriting
    - Dramaturgy
    - Stage Management
- Group Project involving a class presentation or activity that includes an audiovisual component.
- One compare/contrast assignment focusing on comparing the theatrical practices of different cultures.
- Two written critiques of theatrical productions, assessing their plot, themes, acting, directing, and design aesthetic.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

<u>Other Course Information</u>
This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities.
One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.
This course is approved for General Education Diversity and Global Education programs.
Course materials must include at least two plays from or dealing with diverse cultures.

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