

## **THTR 255**

### **Survey of Theatre History**

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**THTR 255 – Survey of Theatre History:** students engage in the exploration of the profession, culture, and practice of theatre-making from approximately 5th Century BCE through 17th Century CE. There is a focus on scripts, staging, production, and acting in each period, positioning each within their cultural and historical contexts.

**Pre-requisites:** ENGL 101 and THTR 101

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. analyze influential moments of theatre and drama;
2. describe the culturally specific theatrical formations that developed within significant historical eras from a global perspective;
3. develop a perspective of historicity in theatre within its cultural context;
4. recognize the specific artistic practices of each theatrical formation;
5. identify the culturally specific demands and techniques of acting in each period;
6. differentiate the theatre architecture of each period and culture;
7. Position architecture and design within the theatrical practice of each formation;
8. articulate the interrelationships between the theatrical formation and the historical, cultural, religious, and economic elements of each period and culture studied; and
9. synthesize historical evidence and perspective in a research paper.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Accepted Theories of the Origins of Theatre
- II. Classical Greek Theatre
  - a. Plays and criticism
  - b. Evolution from Festival Dionysia to New Comedy
  - c. Aristotle
- III. Roman Theatre
  - a. Practice and plays
  - b. Context of the Roman Empire
- IV. Early Asian Theatre Forms
  - a. Noh
  - b. Kabuki

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- c. Bunraku
- d. Zaju
- e. Wayang Kulit
- f. Sanskrit drama
- g. Historical and religious contexts
- V. Medieval Theatre Practices
  - a. Influence of Catholic Church
  - b. Development of liturgical dramas into cycle and morality plays
  - c. Folk drama
- VI. Italian Renaissance
  - a. Developments in stage design
  - b. Plays and criticism
  - c. Commedia dell'arte
- VII. English Renaissance
  - a. Theatre profession
  - b. Plays and playhouses
  - c. Elizabethan and Jacobean drama
- VIII. Spanish Golden Age
  - a. Critical theory
  - b. Religious dramas
- IX. French Neoclassical
  - a. Neoclassical criticism
  - b. Prominent playwrights
  - c. Professionalization
  - d. Comedie Francaise

### **Course Requirements**

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

- Attendance and active participation in class
- Two written examinations
- Five informal written assignments
- A scholarly research paper, with oral presentation
- One group project
- One live production attendance with written analysis

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.

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