

## **THTR 157**

### **African American Theatre**

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**THTR 157 – African American Theatre:** students explore the history and literature of the African American experience in the American theatre. The course includes an examination of plays from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Additionally, students discuss the various roles African Americans have played in American theatre, both on and off the stage. Students examine images and portrayals of Blacks in American theatre and popular culture through historical and contemporary lenses. Students analyze the ways in which African American theatre sheds light on the Black experience in America.

**Co-requisite:** ENGL 101, or permission of the instructor

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. identify historical, social and political factors that have helped to shape African American theatre;
2. analyze representative plays from various periods in the development of African American theatre;
3. apply concepts of dramatic theory and criticism to facilitate the analysis of plays studied in class;
4. recognize the nature and history of images of Blacks in American theatre and popular culture;
5. compare and contrast portrayals of the African American experience by Black artists and non-Black artists;
6. assess the relationship between issues concerning African American theatre and issues facing African Americans in other popular dramatic art forms such as film and television; and
7. analyze current trends and accomplishments in African American theatre as they relate to societal and cultural changes.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Creative Influences on African American Theatre
  - a. Overview of American theatre
  - b. Historical, social and political factors affecting African American theatre
  - c. Images of Blacks in American popular culture
- II. Early African American Theatre and the Experience of Slavery
- III. Early 20th Century and Social Activism

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

- IV. Theatre of the Harlem Renaissance Era
- V. African American Theatre During the Depression
- VI. African American Theatre During World War II
- VII. The Civil Rights Movement and African American Theatre
- VIII. Black Revolutionary Theatre
- IX. Contemporary African American Theatre

### **Course Requirements**

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

- Active class participation
- Attending and/or viewing two theatrical performances and writing two performance analyses. At least one of the performances should have some relevance to African American Theatre
- Two written examinations
- A research paper on a topic related to African American theatre
- Presentation based on student's research paper

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.

Date Revised: 11/3/2020