

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

THEATRE ARTS 110 – INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Provides students with the analytic tools of theatre and a working knowledge of all areas included in the process of producing a play. Through lectures, attendance at selected performances, and in-class projects, students will be introduced to the theatre arts as a reflection of the synthesis of the arts and a definition of the humanities in Western Civilization. Recommended for students interested in theatre who want to have a better understanding of how this art form continues to help shape society.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

Includes studying each of the major periods of theatre history, including the influences of music, dance, theology and social structures. Each design area will be examined; the theatre itself and its development, set design, costume design, lighting, sound and make-up with an emphasis on how these changed and developed. Various genres will be explored so students can evaluate the differences between comedy, tragedy, melodrama and the development of musical theatre. Theatre as an extension of its society and as a collaborative art will be emphasized.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Recognize all phases of theatrical production contemporary pieces of eastern and western theatre arts.
- 2) Distinguish and differentiate between historic periods of theatre.
- 3) Analyze and recognize major literary theatrical genres, playwrights, theatrical evolutions, artistic conflicts and social issues within their societal contexts.
- 4) Identify technical design developments including, but not limited to, sets, costumes, make-up and lighting.
- 5) Identify important theatrical personalities throughout the development of the theatre as well as the historical, political, theological and philosophical influences that shaped the art form.
- 6) Examine the unique contributions of American theatre.
- 7) Formulate an aesthetic appreciation for all aspects of the dramatic arts as major cultural influences and/or indicators.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Participation activities and discussions that measure students' ability to identify the various phases of theatrical production, differentiate between historical periods, and analyze major genres within their societal contexts.
- 2) Written reports/theatrical reviews that measure students' ability to identify technical design developments, examine the contributions of American and international theatre arts, and formulate an aesthetic appreciation of the dramatic arts.

- 3) Projects that measure students' ability to identify important figures in theatre history and the various external influences that shaped the art form.
- 4) In-class performances that measure students' ability to differentiate between different historical periods, analyze dramatic genres, and identify the phases of theatrical production.
- 5) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to identify the phases of theatrical production, distinguish and differentiate historical periods, recognize major dramatic genres and their societal contexts, identify technical design developments, identify important theatrical figures, examine the contributions of American theatre, and formulate an aesthetic appreciation for the dramatic arts.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with stereo audio system

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Trips to theatrical productions and hands-on examples (e.g., various lighting instruments, types of make-up)

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Projects and reports

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Wilson, Edwin and Alvin Goldfarb. *Theatre the Lively Art*, 9th ed. McGraw Hill, 2015.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completions of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify elements of playwriting and stage production when viewing live and recorded theatrical performances.
- 2) Relate the elements of a theatrical performance to its larger historical and stylistic context.