



THEATRE HISTORY II - SYLLABUS

Instructor: Kaia Calhoun

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REQUIRED TEXT

Exploring Theatre, Nancy Prince and Jeanie Jackson

History of Theatre, Foundation Edition,

Oscar G. Brockett and Franklin J. Hildy

The Poetics, Aristotle

Oedipus Rex, Sophocles

Everyman, Unknown

Hamlet, William Shakespeare

The Importance of Being Ernest,

Oscar Wilde

Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen

A Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams

A Long Day's Journey into Night, Eugene O'Neill

Waiting for Godot or Endgame, Samuel Beckett

Mother Courage and Her Children, Bertolt Brecht

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry

The Dutchman, LeRoi Jones

Joe Turner's Come and Gone, August Wilson

Ruined, Lynn Nottage

RECOMMENDED READING

An Actor Prepares – Constantin Stanislavski

Respect for Acting, Uta Hagen

The Method, Lee Strasberg

Sanford Meisner on Acting, Sanford Meisner, Dennis Longwell

Stella Adler The Technique of Acting, Howard Kissel

Psychological Gesture: Form and

Meaning, Michael Chekhov

Practical Handbook for Acting, David Mamet

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the history of the theatre from the earliest recorded beginnings of 8500 B.C. to the latter 20th Century. The classes will explore a timeline of theatrical conventions that summarizes the origins of oral tradition, storytelling, myth, fairytales, fables, classical, neo-classics, melodrama, realism, naturalism, absurdism, and plot structure. The course will also examine how these theatre movements impacted the style of performance through the ages. Interactive projects and assignments will correlate with the weekly investigations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will learn to:

- Students will develop and employ research tools for understanding plays, characters, and context.
- Students will explore earlier non-Western theatre traditions and make connections to the Western theatre styles.
- Students will participate in group discussions, assignments, and engagement techniques for ensemble building and project performances.
- Students will be able to present historical information in a concise and thorough manner.
- Students will examine plot structure from the Greco-Roman construct to the creation of Freytag's Pyramid.
- Students will examine basic play analysis and how it has evolved through the major theatre movements.
- Students will write short plays applying their understanding of the 5 stages of plot structure.
- Students will explore the development of musical theatre in the United States.

CONTENT: SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Week 1: Primitive Theatre and Ritual Storytelling
Week 2: Greek Theatre
Week 3: Roman Theatre
Week 4: Theatre of the Middle Ages
Week 5: Eastern Theatre Traditions
Week 6: The Italian Renaissance
Week 7: Commedia dell'arte
Week 8: The Elizabethan Age
Week 9: English Restoration
Week 10: 19th Century
Week 11: Modern Theatre and Realism
Week 12: Naturalism
Week 13: Stanislavski and the Moscow Art Theatre
Week 14: Early 20th Century
Week 15: Symbolism and Theatre of the Absurd
Week 16: Beckett, Brecht, and Ionesco
Week 17: Off-Off Broadway Movement
Week 18: African American Theatre
Week 19: Hispanic American Theatre
Week 20: American Regional Theatre
Week 21: Puppetry and Masks

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Promptness: You must be present and on time for each class.

Classroom Etiquette: You must enter the classroom quietly and professionally, and exercise self-control and discipline always.

Dress: You must come to class in the departmental uniform. Long dangling earrings, bracelets or necklaces are not permitted.

Student Engagement: You must participate in all class activities, exercises, games, warmups, and discussions.

Readings: You must complete reading assignments prior to class discussion.

Homework and Written Assignments: You must complete all homework and written Assignments on time. Assignments must be neat and legible. Late assignments may incur a 5-point deduction.

Performance Work: All performance work must be presented when scheduled.

Exams and Quizzes: In addition to a midterm and final examination, pop quizzes will be given on all material covered in class.

Final Project: The first-year class will create a theatrical class project for departmental presentation in the fourth advisory.

GRADE PERCENTAGE POINTS

Student Engagement

10%

Warm-ups
Constructive Comments/Opinions
Thoughtful Criticisms
Use of Terminology
Attentiveness
Artistic Citizenship

Practice and Application

50%

Classwork
In-Class Preparation
Assignments
Journals
Homework

Assessment

40%

Performances/Juries
Quizzes

Formative/Summative

Written Midterm
Freshman Class Performance Project
*Factored into Final Class Grade

DC THEATRE STANDARDS

HSP.4.3 *Describe the way in which playwrights reflect and influence history and culture with an emphasis on American playwrights.*

HSA.4.1 *Analyze the influence of traditional and nontraditional theatre, film/TV, and electronic media on values and behaviors.*

HAS.4.2 *Compare and contrast a traditional interpretation of a play with an innovative interpretation.*

HSA.1.7 *Collaborate on the development of original dramatic pieces leading to performance*

HSA.3.1 *Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as genre, style, theme, and design to analyze theatrical experiences.*

HSP.3.3 *Document observations and perceptions on how a specific actor used theatre techniques to convey meaning in his or her performances.*

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS (NCAS)

TH:Cr1.II a. Investigate historical and cultural conventions and their impact on the visual composition of drama/theatre work(s).

TH:Cr1.III a. Synthesize knowledge from a variety of dramatic forms, theatrical conventions, and technologies to create the visual composition of a drama/ theatre work.

TH:Cr1.III c. Integrate cultural and historical contexts with personal experiences to create a character that is believable and authentic, in a drama/theatre work.

TH:Cr2.II a. Refine a dramatic concept to demonstrate a critical understanding of historical and cultural influences of original ideas applied to a drama/theatre work.

TH:Cr2.III a. Develop and synthesize original ideas in a drama/theatre work utilizing critical analysis, historical and cultural context, research, and western or nonwestern theatre traditions.

Term Percentage Earned	Term Grade Assigned	Value Assigned to Grade
92.5% - 100%	A	4.0
89.5% - 92%	A-	3.7
86.5% - 89%	B+	3.3
82.5% - 86%	B	3.0
79.5% - 82%	B-	2.7
76.5% - 79%	C+	2.3
72.5% - 76%	C	2.0
69.5% - 72%	C-	1.7
66.5% - 69%	D+	1.3
63.5% - 66%	D	1.0
63% - Under	F	0