

THEATRE 200
UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THEATRE

BULLETIN INFORMATION

THEA 200 - Understanding and Appreciation of Theatre (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

An introduction to the understanding and appreciation of theatrical experience. Attendance at theatrical performances required.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

In this class we will examine how theatre is made. We will learn about the various elements of theatrical productions and the roles of the theatre artists in order to better appreciate live theatre. Additionally we will trace the historical arch of western theatre from its Greek origins to what we now consider contemporary theatre.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Theater 200, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the five roles of the theatre artist (actor, director, dramaturge, designer, playwright)
2. Explain different types and the uses of theatrical forms (e.g. tragedy, farce, etc.)
3. Discuss and comment upon actor/designer/director choices made during a production
4. Explain the major trends and movements throughout theatre history
5. Assess the relationships between modern performances and their historical roots.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. *Theatre: The Lively Art* by Edwin Wilson and Alvin Goldfarb

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM

1. PLAYS:

- a. It is required that you see both main stage productions and one Lab Theatre Production. You should bring a notebook with you when you see the play so you can jot down a few notes as you will have to write a paper about each of them.

2. LAB THEATRE ASSIGNMENT:

- a. Black Board Discussion Board Post DUE on 11/22 by 11:59 PM
 - i. In at least 350 words, fully answer this question: The Lab, Drayton and Longstreet are contrasting theatre spaces. Describe how the various theatre spaces influenced your understanding of the play and also your enjoyment (or lack) of it. Did you like being so close to the action? Did you prefer the anonymity of a large house? Describe what play you liked best and explain how the set and the type of stage might have played a

role in your appreciation of the play. Remember to use as many specific details as possible.

3. 3 Exams

4. 2 Essays

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

Class 1: Welcome and Intro to Class, Ground Rules and Intro to Theater

Class 2: Theatre in Everyday Life
Reading: Chps 1 – 2

Class 3: The Audience
Reading: Chp. 3

Class 4: Creating the Blueprint
Creating the World of the Play
Reading: Chp. 4

Class 5: Creating the World of the Play
Reading: Chp. 4

Class 6: Theatrical Genres
Last Names A-K Report to class as usual
Last Names L-Z Report to Drayton Hall
Reading: Chp. 5

Class 7: Acting for the Stage
Reading: Chp. 6

Class 8: Acting for the Stage & Director/ Producer
Reading: Chp. 6 and 7

Class 9: Director/Producer
Theatre Spaces
Review For Exam
Reading: Chp. 7 and Chp. 8

Class 10: EXAM #1

Class 11: Elements of Design
Reading: Chp. 9

- Class 12:** Elements of Design
Reading: Chp. 9
- Class 13:** Elements of Design
Reading: Chp. 10
- Class 14:** The Making of Lord of the Rings: The Musical
- Class 15:** The Making of Lord of the Rings: The Musical
- Class 16:** ESSAY #1 Due
- Class 17:** Design Challenge Day
- Class 18:** Musical Theatre – Starting here and looking backwards
- Class 19:** American Musical Theatre’s Connection to Greek Theatre
Review for Exam
- Class 20:** Exam #2
Reading: Chp. 11
- Class 21:** Early Theatre
Reading: Chp. 11
- Class 22:** Early Theatre
Reading: Chp. 11
- Class 23:** Performance Day
- Class 24:** Early Theatre
Reading: Chp 12
- Class 25:** Renaissance Theatre
Reading: Chp 13
- Class 26:** Renaissance Theatre
ESSAY #2 Due
Reading: Chp. 13
- Class 27:** Romanticism
Reading: Chp 14
- Class 28:** Early and Modern Drama

Reading: Chp. 15

Class 29: Review for Exam

Final Exam according to university exam schedule