

THEA A100: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/06/2023
Top Code	100700 - Dramatic Arts
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3A Theory (OC1)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 3A Arts (OSC1)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cal-GETC 3A Arts (3A)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGETC 3A Arts (3A)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSU C1 Arts (C1)

Course Description

An introductory lecture course which explores the process of creating theatre today, including the contributions of the playwright, actor, director and designer. Plays of varying genres will be viewed and discussed. Students will also review two live stage productions. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC: Credit Limitation: THEA A100 and THEA A101 combined: maximum credit, 1 course.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Analyze and discuss play productions in terms of directorial concept, script interpretation, performance quality, and production values.
2. Analyze and discuss plays in terms of genre, theme, structure and character.
3. Identify and discuss major dramatic genres.
4. Develop and write a critique of a play production.
5. Describe and evaluate several major dramatic works by important playwrights.

Course Objectives

- 1. Make written critical appraisals of theatre productions, of written play texts, and of performance and production styles.
- 2. Describe the actor's contribution to play production.
- 3. Describe the director's contribution to play production.
- 4. Describe the playwright's contribution to play production.

- 5. Describe the designer's contribution to play production in the areas of scenery, costume, lighting and sound.
- 6. Define the major theatre genres.

Lecture Content

Section One: Roots of theatre Dionysus and Ancient Greece The role of the audience Group psychology The imagination of the audience Willing suspension of disbelief Communication tools and styles Realism vs. theatrical communication styles Symbol and metaphor Hamlet Criticism and play reviews Acting Historical acting styles Modern performance styles Acting today Directing History of directing Directorial interpretation Directing today Section Two: Playwriting: subject, purpose, and point-of-view Genre: Drama tragedy, domestic drama, melodrama A Doll's House Genre: Comedy tragicomedy, satire, parody Genre: Absurdism Rockabye and Breath Genre: Musical Theatre History of musical theatre Book musicals, concept musicals, jukebox musicals A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum Zoot Suit Theatre of Diversity Section Three: Playwriting: Structure Elements of structure Climactic Episodic Musical Serial Playwriting: Character Realistic and non-realistic Cyrano de Bergerac Section Four: Theatre Spaces Scene Design Costume Design Lighting Design Sound Design Death of a Salesman Our Town

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)

Instructional Techniques

1. Make written critical appraisals of theatre productions, of written play texts, and of performance and production styles. 2. Appraise and critique theatre productions, written play texts, performance and production styles. 3. Describe historical styles of performance. 4. Describe the actor's contribution to play production. 5. Describe the director's contribution to play production. 6. Describe the playwright's contribution to play production. 7. Describe the designer's contribution to play production in the areas of scenery, costume, lighting and sound. 8. Describe theatre organizational systems. 9. Define the following theatre genres: Comedy, Tragedy, Tragicomedy, Musical Theatre, Avante-Garde, Absurdism, Melodrama.

Reading Assignments

The student will write two or more play reviews and complete four vocabulary worksheets. Exams will include a written essay portion.

Writing Assignments

The student will write two or more play reviews and complete four vocabulary worksheets. Exams will include a written essay portion.

Out-of-class Assignments

The student will write two or more play reviews and complete four vocabulary worksheets. Exams will include a written essay portion.

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Evaluation consists of: Tests which include essay portions as well as multiple choice and true/false questions. Four vocabulary homework assignments. Two written play critiques.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

1. The student will write two or more play reviews and complete four vocabulary worksheets. 2. Exams will include a written essay portion.

Eligible Disciplines

Theater arts: See drama/theater arts Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Wilson, Edwin. The Theatre Experience, ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2023