

# Common Course Outline

THTR 101

Introduction to the Theatre

3 Semester Hours

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

Introduction to the Theatre

Explores the theatrical experience through the study of theatre and its audience, theatre and its makers, and the theatre of other times and places; examines theatre's relationship to and impact on our culture. Requires attendance at and critical evaluation of plays.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 052 or LVE 2) and (RDNG 052 or LVR 2).

### Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Develop and apply critical and analytical skills to the theatrical experience.
- Detail and analyze the impact of theatre on past and contemporary culture.
- Differentiate the similarities between live theatre production and filmed or taped productions; discern the unique qualities and integrations of each.
- Develop a sense of theatre aesthetics and vocabulary.
- Produce a scholarly or creative project with written, oral, and visual components.
- Analyze the impact of technology on contemporary theatre.
- Recognize that theatre can play a part in personal development and growth.
- Assess the different approaches to theatre as business, as entertainment, as aesthetic, and as pedagogy.
- Differentiate the essential elements of a play and a production by examining their physical, artistic, technical, and dramatic aspects; describe a production's collaborative nature.
- Develop a group exercise to demonstrate theatrical aspects.
- View theatrical productions with a more discerning eye and ear. Render a critical analysis and evaluation.
- Recognize, analyze, and discuss the historicity of theatre. Major Topics in Theatre History:
  - I. Mimesis and the propensity of humans to imitate action of the stories of their times and events—that is, ritual and ceremony in precalligraphic civilizations.

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- II. Mimesis and propensity in Sumerian, Babylonian, Egyptian cultures, and in the Biblical text.
- III. Origins of theatre as understood in linear dramaturgy and theatrical art in western culture: A study of theatre as high art/cultural sharing in Graeco-Roman foundations.
- IV. Origins of theatre in stylistic dramaturgy: A study of African, Asian, and sub-continental theatricality.
- V. Medieval to modern period: Amoritization of isms: Classicism; Cycle Drama; Neo-Classicism; Elizabethan and Commedia; romanticism; Realism; Naturalism; Impressionism; Expressionism; Avant-Garde; Alternative; Theatre today; Other (Future Predictions?).

### Course Requirements (VII)

- 1. Attendance and active participation in class
- 2. A minimum of two written examinations
- 3. Read and discuss a minimum of two plays with accompanying writing assignment(s)
- 4. Annotated scholarly or creative project with written and oral components
- 5. Group project involving a classroom presentation or activity
- 6. Required attendance at a live theatre performance at a professional, dinner, community, or college and university theatre and a written critical response

### Other Course Information

THTR 101, Introduction to the Theatre, satisfies the Humanities and Arts General Education requirement for graduation.