

# Common Course Outline

## THTR 101

### Introduction to Theatre

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

**Introduction to Theatre – 3 credits** – 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 at least four performances, some of which may be off-campus.

### 3 Credits

**Co-requisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

### Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. apply critical and analytical skills to the theatrical experience;
2. analyze the impact of theatre on past and contemporary culture;
3. discuss marginalized individuals and how these groups are represented in theatrical works;
4. compare and contrast live theatre productions and recorded productions;
5. apply appropriate theatre vocabulary to critical and aesthetic analysis;
6. produce a project with written, oral, and visual components;
7. find, evaluate, use and cite academic resources to research and analyze the impact of technology on contemporary theatre;
8. deconstruct a script to uncover plot structure, character development and socio-political themes, in particular those of marginalized groups.
9. examine, compare, and contrast the essential elements of a play;
10. collaborate in a group to develop an exercise that demonstrates a theatrical technique or concept, and
11. discuss the ethics of intellectual property and copyright as it relates to playwriting, directing, design and performance in the profession of theatre.

### Major Topics

- I. Basic Play Analysis
  - A. Identification of plot,
  - B. character and themes in a diverse variety of theatrical texts;
  - C. identification of climactic plot structure versus an episodic plot structure
  - D. identification of the physical, artistic and technical elements

## II. Dramatic Theory

- A. Application of Aristotle's Poetics to plays read and seen in class

## III. The Playwright

- A. Examination of the fundamentals of playwriting including
- B. structure,
- C. character development and
- D. dialogue

## IV. The Actor

- A. Investigation of the actor's process in preparing for a role;
- B. exploration of the theories of actor training and vocabulary

## V. The Director

- A. Investigation of the directorial process from pre-production to opening night;
- B. exploration of approaches to directing

## VI. The Designers

- A. Investigation of the design process and skills needed for scenic,
- B. lighting, costume, and sound design, including the
- C. use of contemporary multi-media technology

## VII. Social Contexts

- A. Investigation of diverse characters,
- B. themes,
- C. forms, and symbolism in order to discover how society and the theatre impact each other

## VIII. Theatre History: Greek and Roman theatre, Elizabethan theatre, Asian and Eastern performance practice, and theatrical trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including theatre for social justice

### **Course Requirements:**

Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program Outcomes; at least one assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program Outcomes.

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

### **Grading/Exams**

- Attendance at all CCBC Academic Productions.
- Scholarly or creative project that relates to or demonstrates at least four of the following production elements: Acting, Directing, Light Design, Sound Design, Set Design, Playwriting, Dramaturgy, Stage Management.
- Project (individual or group) involving a classroom presentation or activity.

Written Assignments:

- A minimum of two written play analysis papers, one of which must include a research component that must be at least 750-1000 words in length.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an approved General Education Arts and Humanities course. Please refer to the current CCBC catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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