

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

THTR 157

African American Theatre

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

African American Theatre

Explores the history and literature of the African American experience in the American theatre; examines plays from the mid-nineteenth century to the present; discusses the various roles African Americans have played in American theatre, both on and off the stage; examines the images (sometimes stereotypical) of Blacks in American theatre and popular culture. Assesses the ways in which African American theatre sheds light on the Black experience in America.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify historical, social and political factors that have helped to shape African American theatre.
2. Examine, discuss and analyze representative plays from various periods in the development of African American theatre.
3. Apply concepts of dramatic theory and criticism to facilitate the analysis of plays studied in class.
4. Recognize the nature and history of images of Blacks in American theatre and popular culture.
5. Compare and contrast stereotypical images of Blacks with images created by Black playwrights and actors.
6. Assess the relationship between issues related to African American theatre and issues related to African Americans in other popular dramatic art forms such as film and television.

Major Topics in African American Theatre

- I. Creative influences on African American theatre; Overview of American theatre; historical, social and political factors affecting African American theatre—including an examination of images of Blacks in American popular culture.
- II. Early African American Theatre and the experience of slavery.
- II. Theatre of the Harlem Renaissance.
- III. African American theatre during the Depression years.

- IV. African American theatre during the World War II era.
- V. The Civil Rights Movement and African American theatre.
- VI. Black Revolutionary Theatre.
- VII. Contemporary African American Theatre.

Course Requirements

- 1. Attendance and active participation in class.
- 2. Attendance at one on-campus and one off-campus theatrical performance. At least one of the performances should have some relevance to African American Theatre.
- 3. Two written performance analyses based on the theatrical productions viewed by the student.
- 4. A minimum of two written examinations.
- 5. A research paper on a topic related to African American theatre.
- 6. Oral report based on student's research paper.
- 7. Participation in group exercises.
- 8. Reading assigned plays.

Other Course Information

THTR 157 satisfies the Program Elective required for the A.A. in Theatre and the Theatre Transfer program.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.