

THTR 255

Survey of Theatre History

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

THTR 255 – Survey of Theatre History: students engage in the exploration of the profession, culture, and practice of theatre-making from approximately 5th Century BCE through 17th Century CE. There is a focus on scripts, staging, production, and acting in each period, positioning each within their cultural and historical contexts.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 101 and THTR 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. analyze influential moments of theatre and drama;
2. describe the culturally specific theatrical formations that developed within significant historical eras from a global perspective;
3. develop a perspective of historicity in theatre within its cultural context;
4. recognize the specific artistic practices of each theatrical formation;
5. identify the culturally specific demands and techniques of acting in each period;
6. differentiate the theatre architecture of each period and culture;
7. Position architecture and design within the theatrical practice of each formation;
8. articulate the interrelationships between the theatrical formation and the historical, cultural, religious, and economic elements of each period and culture studied; and
9. synthesize historical evidence and perspective in a research paper.

Major Topics

- I. Accepted Theories of the Origins of Theatre
- II. Classical Greek Theatre
 - a. Plays and criticism
 - b. Evolution from Festival Dionysia to New Comedy
 - c. Aristotle
- III. Roman Theatre
 - a. Practice and plays
 - b. Context of the Roman Empire
- IV. Early Asian Theatre Forms
 - a. Noh
 - b. Kabuki

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- c. Bunraku
- d. Zaju
- e. Wayang Kulit
- f. Sanskrit drama
- g. Historical and religious contexts
- V. Medieval Theatre Practices
 - a. Influence of Catholic Church
 - b. Development of liturgical dramas into cycle and morality plays
 - c. Folk drama
- VI. Italian Renaissance
 - a. Developments in stage design
 - b. Plays and criticism
 - c. Commedia dell'arte
- VII. English Renaissance
 - a. Theatre profession
 - b. Plays and playhouses
 - c. Elizabethan and Jacobean drama
- VIII. Spanish Golden Age
 - a. Critical theory
 - b. Religious dramas
- IX. French Neoclassical
 - a. Neoclassical criticism
 - b. Prominent playwrights
 - c. Professionalization
 - d. Comedie Francaise

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Attendance and active participation in class
- Two written examinations
- Five informal written assignments
- A scholarly research paper, with oral presentation
- One group project
- One live production attendance with written analysis

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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