

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 21st 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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