

Montgomery County Community College  
 THA 114  
 Theatre Appreciation  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an entry level course in theatre history, its practice, and the creation of the theatrical event, exploring theatre's role as a central, social communication event. Through group and individual presentations, students will explore the roles of the various artists who collaborate to create theatre, how ideas are reflected in the conception and reading of a play, and how ideas about interpretation and aesthetic can be reflected in production. Students will be required to attend live theatre performances.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- REA 017 Vocabulary & Reading Comprehension Development II or REA 011 Fundamentals of College Read.
- ESL 011 ESL Basic Writing II or ENG 011 Basic Writing II

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Research the relationships among theatre, cultures and historical periods, exploring the history and evolution of theatre, ritual performance, and other cultural expression.	Research Project Assigned Readings In Class Discussions and Exercises In Class Research Presentation Group and Individual Presentations	In Class Research Presentation Group and Individual Presentations
2. Apply appropriate research techniques to analyze theatre history and literature using critical thinking skills and performing arts vocabulary to create an original theory, performance or design.	In Class Research Presentation Group and Individual Presentations	In Class Research Presentation Group and Individual Presentations

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Distinguish between the roles and duties of different theatre artists involved in a production.	Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Attending Live Theatre Performance(s)	Concept Paper Set Design Paper Character Analysis Costume Project Sound Design Project Quizzes or Exams
4. Distinguish between the elements of performance and of different theatre spaces.	Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Attending Live Theatre Performance(s)	Quizzes or Exams Set Design Paper
5. Analyze a written text to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision (text analysis).	In Class Discussions Assigned Readings Individual Presentations	Concept Paper Set Design Paper Character Analysis Costume Project Sound Design Project Journaling
6. Apply skills of observation, aesthetic value, and analysis to the creation of an informed critique of a theatrical work.	In Class Critique and Discussion of Readings and Student Work Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) Lecture/Discussion	Individual Presentations Group Presentations Journaling
7. Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre Professionals	In Class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. What is Theatre?
2. Text Analysis: Plot, Theme, Character, Language, Ethical, and Moral
3. Dramatic Genres: Comedy, Tragedy, Farce, Melodrama, Tragi-comedy
4. Theatrical Styles: Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, Epic Theatre, Absurdism
5. Greek Theatre: Aristotle; The Roots of Theatre in the Community Event
6. Roman Theatre
7. Theatre of the Middle Ages
8. Renaissance (English, French and Italian)
9. 18<sup>th</sup> Century

10. 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary
11. Theatre and World Cultures
12. The Evolution of Theatre Performance and Spectator Spaces
13. The Creators of Theatre:
  - a. Playwrights
  - b. Directors
  - c. Designers
  - d. Production Crew
  - e. Actors
  - f. Producers
14. Group Presentations

#### LEARNING MATERIALS:

The Norton Anthology of Drama (Shorter Third Edition) 3rd Edition by Martin Puchner

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

#### COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Michael Whistler Date: 10/24/2008

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr. Date: 2/25/2009

Revised by: Michael Whistler Date: 2/10/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/15/2013

Revised by: Timothy Gallagher Date: 12/15/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 12/15/2017

Revised by: Timothy Gallagher Date: 9/24/2020

Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 9/24/2020



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*