

SYLLABUS

Code: THTR 105

Title: Theater Appreciation

Division: Arts and Communication

Department: Theater

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the elements of theater, the current Broadway scene, theatrical reviewing, the form and content of drama and theater history. In addition to lecture and films, the students will be required to see a Broadway or off-Broadway show. This is not a performance course.

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Prerequisites or Corequisites:

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab/Studio Hours: 0

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS:

The Essential Theater 9th edition: by Oscar Brockett

ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIREMENTS:

The viewing of two live theater productions outside of the class period.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Communicate their personal thoughts and theories about the text, viewing of films and live theater (Communication, Creative Expression, and Critical Thinking).
- Collect, identify, analyze, organize and evaluate information from a variety of sources and then synthesize it into a written document (Information Literacy), (Critical Thinking), (Creative Expression).
- Identify and analyze the lives, times, social, economic and political climate in which their plays were conceived, written and performed as well as the effect this had on the writers and how this influenced their work and how the plays influenced society. (Historical/Societal Analysis).

GRADING STANDARD:

Grades will be based on the following:

1. Midterm 25%
2. Final 25%
3. The student must attend both Brookdale Theater productions during the semester. The student must critique all aspects of the production using specific guidelines. These will be given to them by the instructor. All reviews must be typed and submitted to the instructor. All written work must be prepared up to the expectations of college- level writing and will be graded accordingly. 20%
4. Written Homework Assignments. 20%
5. Participation in Group Discussions 10%

Please see the individual Instructor Addendum for grading guidelines.

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The Grading scale is as follows:

A 96%-100%/ A- 91%- 95%/ B+ 86%-90% / B 83%-85/ B 79%-82% / C+ 75%-78% / C 70%-74% / D 60%-69%

<u>Grades</u>		<u>Grade Points</u>
A	Excellent	4
A-	A-	3.67
B+	B+	3.33
B	Good	3
B-	B-	2.67
C+	C+	2.33
C	Satisfactory	2.0
P	Satisfactory or better	2.0
D	Marginal	1.0
F	Failing	0

OTHER OPTIONS: AUDIT or WITHDRAWAL by WEEK 12

COURSE CONTENT:

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of this class is to educate the student in the fundamentals of theater, the current Broadway landscape, theatrical reviewing, the origins and evolution of drama from the Greeks to modern theater. The current plays, theatrical personalities, commercial considerations, the problems of contemporary theater. The Student will understand the development of a play from creation to performance. Your participation will include discussion, lecture, the viewing of live theatrical productions and the use of films. This is not a performance course.

UNIT 1: CRITICISM, ART AND ITS VALUE IN SOCIETY

OBJECTIVE:

The student will be able to apply the tools and techniques discussed in this course to evaluate live theatrical performance. The student will achieve an understanding of all art forms.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Discuss and understand the six qualities needed by a critic.
2. Discuss and understand the three basic problems of criticism.
3. Understand the different criteria applied to various types of productions.
4. Discuss the idea of what is Art in all its forms.
5. Discuss the value that we place on different Art forms.

EVALUATIONS:

View films in class and write cohesive and perceptive reviews. Read examples of both positive and negative reviews and analyze them.

UNIT 2: SCRIPT AND PLAY ANALYSIS:

OBJECTIVE:

The Student will be able to discuss dramatic and musical plays in analytical terms.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. The student will understand the difference between Tragedy, Melodrama, Comedy, Farce, and Well Made Play. They will be able to define the following terms: Theme, thesis, fourth wall, protagonist, antagonist and split protagonist. The unities of Time, Place, Action and Poetic Justice.
2. The student will understand the three parts of Plot, Dramatic Action and the Three Elements of Theater.
3. The Student will develop an understanding of the terms: point of attack, exposition, complication, foreshadowing discovery, reversal, crisis (turning point), climax, and denouncement.
4. The Student will Understand the differences among musical comedy, musical play, and concept musical and be able to identify the differences. Read the assigned plays and be able to discuss them in the terms and criteria discussed in class.

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EVALUATIONS:

1. View films in class and identify its use of dramatic action. Be prepared to write a paper based on the concepts and theories that have been discussed.
2. View a musical theater film in class and be able to identify the style, be prepared to discuss it in class, and write a paper based on the concepts and theories that have been discussed.
3. Participate in-group discussions of the two assigned plays. Receive a grade of at least 70 on the Mid-Term to achieve a C grade.

UNIT 3: THEATER HISTORY

OBJECTIVE:

The student will learn what happened in the past, the rites, traditions, and progressions that gradually developed into the theater we know today.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Trace the development of Greek, Roman, Medieval and Renaissance Theater, and name a playwright from each group.
2. Explain how developments in art, science, music, and psychology have influenced Theater.
3. Identify and discuss impressionism, expressionism, naturalism, and realism. Name a major playwright from each school.
4. Explain the difference between presentational theater (epic) and representational theater (realistic).
5. Identify the similarities and variations of the structures of contemporary plays.

EVALUATIONS:

1. Bring in information on an assigned topic about Theater History.
2. Bring in a short biography of a 20th century playwright.
3. Participate in-group discussions. Turn in all assignments.

Unit 4: Modern Theater:

OBJECTIVE:

The student will understand the theater of today and its diversity.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Differentiate between Broadway, Off Broadway, Off Off Broadway, Regional Theater, Institutional Theater, Workshop, Showcase, College Theater, and Community Theater.
2. Describe the various financial forces influencing theater and film today and understand the following terms: marketable name, TKTS, Blockbuster, Actors Equity,
3. Briefly describe the functions of the following: Producer, Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Publicist, Theatrical Agent, Advertising Rep., Casting Director, General Manager, Company Manager, Backer, Playwright, Scenic Designer, and Costume Designer.
4. Briefly identify shows currently on Broadway.
5. Develop an understanding of the problems facing Contemporary Theater.

EVALUATIONS:

The Student will Participate in all group discussions on the problems of contemporary theater. Complete and hand in all written assignments.

REVIEW GUIDELINES:

1. Play / Movie vs. Production.

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2. Memorable scenes and performances.
3. Weaknesses in writing and performing.
4. Relevance to today.
5. Possible additions and elimination's.
6. Evaluation of Play / Movie in relation to writer's other plays.
7. Whom did you care about and why?
8. Will the Play / Movie endure, is it date?
9. Did the characters involve you emotionally?
10. Did the characters develop and grow?
11. How effective were the costumes, lighting, musical background, and props and scenery?
12. How did it compare to other productions of the Play / Movie that you have seen? (If applicable)?
13. Casting
14. How did the audience respond?
15. Impressive details.
16. Where did the Play / Movie go wrong (if applicable)?
17. How would you improve it?
18. Playwright's/ Screenwriter's place in dramatic literature.

DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

Questions or Concerns please contact:

Assistant Professor John Bukovec at, 732-224-2605 or jbukovec@brookdalecc.edu

COLLEGE POLICIES:

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit www.brookdalecc.edu/support.

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

MENTAL HEALTH:

- Mental Health Crisis Support: From a campus phone, dial 5555 or 732-224-2329 from an external line; off-hours calls will be forwarded to BCC police (2222 from a campus phone)

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- Psychological Counseling Services: 732-224-2986 (to schedule an appointment during regular hours)

The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.