

12/8/2005

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF A COURSE IN THE
GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:
EDUCATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL: COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS COLLEGE: ARTS AND SCIENCES

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1. Subject Code, Number, and Title: CTAR 150 Introduction to the Theatre
2. Credit Hours three
3. Introduction to the Theatre strives to enrich the theatre experience by promoting an understanding of the way theatre is created. Plays are studied in both production and text from the viewpoint of the theatre practitioner. Consideration is given to how historic and cultural context inform elements of theatre. A deepening awareness of the energy, passion and commitments of theatre artists is developed through critical commentary and participation in the creation of the theatre event.
4. This course is (check one):
 - an existing course with no revisions (need not go through the input system)
 - an existing course with revisions (attach this form to Request for Course Revision form)
 - a new course (attach this form to Request for New Course form)
5. Check the General Education requirement this course is intended to meet. If the course is to be proposed for more than one requirement, submit a separate form for each one.
 - Effective Communication**
 - Quantitative Reasoning (*QR designation*)**
 - Writing Intensive (*WI designation*)**
 - Perspectives on a Diverse World**
 - Global Awareness
 - U.S. Diversity
 - Knowledge of the Disciplines**
 - Arts
 - Humanities
 - Science
 - Social Science

Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC designation)

6. Rationale. Provide a concise, clear, jargon-free explanation of why this is a General Education course and how it fits into this specific requirement. This rationale should appear on the general course syllabus provided here and should be included in specific course syllabi given to students.

Theatre is an integral component of human experience. The study of theatre promotes reflection, collaboration and individual expression. As a reflector of cultural traditions, theatre illuminates customs, mores and behaviors. As a collaborative endeavor it encourages both critical and creative thinking. As a method of individual expression it facilitates the articulation of intellectual and emotional experience. Since theatrical production involves literature, music, movement, and design it is an ideal vehicle for the study of the arts. Introduction to Theatre (CTAR 150) meets the General Education requirement for Arts in the Knowledge of the Disciplines.

7. Clearly and concisely explain how this course meets each of the General Education outcomes for the requirement checked in number five (all outcomes should be addressed). To do this, (a) list the General Education outcomes for the requirement and explain how the course meets each outcome; and (b) explain, in general terms, the method(s) of evaluation to be used in the course and how these methods assess the degree to which students have met the General Education outcomes for this requirement.

Outcome #1—Acquire basic knowledge and skills in the use of the vocabularies, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods in an arts discipline [theatre].

Acquire an introductory knowledge of plays, the people who create them, their function in the creative process, the tools they use and the methods of communication. Students learn to express their knowledge through effective use of vocabularies, materials, tools, and techniques.

Outcome #2—Examine the relationship between creative and critical thinking.

Students learn to examine artistic problems and make intelligent and informed decisions about the process and product. As participants in the production process students make creative decisions regarding elements of theatre like design, staging and casting. As audience members students express informed critical opinion regarding the effectiveness of the productions experience.

Outcome #3—Learn the relationship between content and form.

Students learn the relationship between content (the elements of drama) and form (production methods and style) by responding orally and in writing to works of theatre regarding aesthetics and artistic choices.

Outcome #4—Begin to understand historical development in an arts discipline [theatre].

Students acquire an understanding of the importance of periods and developments in theatre by referencing particular artists, plays, productions, styles and genres. Particular attention is paid to indigenous forms of American theatre, specifically African American Theatre and American Musical Theatre.

Outcome #5—Develop ability to evaluate work in an arts discipline [theatre].

Students develop the ability to evaluate a work by writing personal response critiques of multiple theatrical experiences.

Outcome #6—Learn to define and solve artistic problems.

Students learn to define and solve artistic problems by creating theatrical works that include one or more of the following: producing, writing, directing, acting and/or designing.

B. Methods of Evaluation

As with most creative endeavors there are multiple ways to achieve goals. Theatre artists perfect individual methods and techniques that they can use when working on problems related to productions and projects. In recognition of this we avoid mandating prescriptive assignments. The various faculty members who teach this class design assignments in accordance with personal methods that assure the achievement of the stated goals. The attached syllabus illustrates one specific set of assumptions.

Creative Written Project Assignments. *Complete a number of assignments that relate to the work of the playwright, actor, director, and designer. The assignments require synthesizing knowledge in order to create a product that demonstrates effective use of tools (e.g., imagination), techniques (e.g., improvisation) materials (e.g., costumes) and methods (e.g., motivational analysis) used by various theatre artists. Projects will be assessed on demonstrated understanding of the tools, materials and methods involved, effective decision making and clarity of expression in defining and solving artistic problems.*

Addresses Outcomes #1 and #6

Production Projects. *Small production teams develop a production concept for an assigned play or scenario. Team members assume responsibility of demonstrating the concept as actors, designers, directors, and producer. The demonstration includes both written and oral presentations. Projects will be assessed in relation to evidence of creative thinking and effective use of tools, materials and methods.*

Addresses Outcomes #1, #2, #3 and #6

In Class Critiques of Production Assignments. *Discuss and respond in writing to production projects. Responses demonstrate effective critical thinking while commenting on the content and form of the projects. Addresses Outcomes #2, #3 and #5*

Reading Plays. Read assigned plays that reflect a wide spectrum of both style and genre. Knowledge of these plays (plot, character, style, genre, period artists, etc.) is assessed through tests, quizzes and/or written assignments. Addresses Outcomes #3, #4 and #5

Test and Outside Reading. Students will be assigned reading from text and other sources relating to theatre history and production. Knowledge derived from this reading is measured through classroom discussion and written tests. Addresses Outcome #4

Written Reviews. Write reviews of EMU Theatre productions. The reviews should demonstrate the ability to evaluate work in an arts discipline [theatre]. Addresses Outcome #5

8. Attach a syllabus (1-inch margins and 10-12 pt. font). The syllabus must include the rationale from #6 above and clearly reflect the outcomes and methods detailed in #7 above.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE CTAR 150

3 Credit Hours

Course Description. Introduction to the Theatre strives to enrich the theatre experience by promoting an understanding of the way theatre is created. Plays are studied in both production and text from the viewpoint of the theatre practitioner. Consideration is given to how historic and cultural context inform elements of theatre. A deepening awareness of the energy, passion and commitments of theatre artists is developed through critical commentary and participation in the creation of the theatre event.

Course Rationale. Theatre is an integral component of human experience. The study of theatre promotes reflection, collaboration and individual expression. As a reflector of cultural traditions, theatre illuminates customs, mores and behaviors. As a collaborative endeavor it encourages both critical and creative thinking. As a method of individual expression it facilitates the articulation of intellectual and emotional experience. Since theatrical production involves literature, music, movement, and design it is an ideal vehicle for the study of the arts. Introduction to Theatre (CTAR 150) meets the General Education requirement for Arts in the Knowledge of the Disciplines.

Required Text *The Creative Spirit: An Introduction to the Theatre, Third Edition*, by Stephanie Arnold

Other Requirements

Attendance at two designated EMU Theatre productions.

Student assignments

Written Assignments

There will be a number of written assignments that provide introductory experience with the work of playwrights, actors, directors, and designers.

Examples

Written Assignment #1—Observe a scene from contemporary life

1. Describe the scene as a reporter
2. Write a scenario in which you enhance the theatrical/dramatic appeal of the scene.

Written Assignment #2—Select six sources, three print and three web, that would help you play a character from *Joe Turner...* or *Soul Shall Dance*

Written Assignment #3—Using contemporary professional actors from film, stage, and television cast *Angels In America* and provide a brief explanation for your choice.

Written Assignment #4—Option 1: Select music and fine art that reflect your feelings about *Dog Lady*. Describe the qualities of each that influenced your decision. Option 2: Select a location on campus that you feel is interesting and photograph it. What qualities make it interesting? Remove all but one item that reflects the essence of the location.

QUIZZES

There will be a short multiple-choice quiz on each of the plays assigned to be read

There will be a short quiz on the material relating to musical theatre presented in class and assigned in the reading.

EXAM

The mid term exam will be objective in form and will cover text reading assignments.

PRODUCTION PRESENTATION

Small production teams will develop a production concept for an assigned play. Team members will assume responsibility of demonstrating the concept as actors, designers, director and producer. The demonstration will include both written and oral presentations.

THEATRE REVIEWS

Write reviews of EMU Theatre productions using the criteria provided in class

Grading Criteria

Written assignments	5 pts. Each	20
EMU theatre reviews	10 pts. Each	20
Quizzes	5 pts. Each	25
Midterm exam		10
Final project (no extra credit)		20
Class participation		<u>5</u>
		100%

Course Policies

All assignments must be turned in on time, in person, and in class. There will be no make-up quizzes or exams. You can earn up to 15 points extra credit by attending and reviewing approved professional or educational theatre productions (5 pts. each). Extra credit may not be applied to final project. All assignments must be typed. Plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment and the lowering of the final grade by one full letter grade.

Course Schedule

Unit One. Overview and introduction to elements, style and genre. Comparative study of four different theatrical versions of the Romeo and Juliet story from Shakespeare to Hip Hop. Discussion—Students will

describe their most enjoyable theatrical experience (live, film, video) and then compare that experience with enjoyable art/entertainment experience (fine art, music, dance, sport). Read chapters 1 and 2 and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Prepare for Quiz

Unit Two The work of the playwright. Concept and structure. Comparative study of *Joe Turner...*, *Piano Lesson*, *A View from the Gulf* Read chapters 3 and 12. **Written Assignment #1**

Unit Three Acting, character, motivation, language, concentration, research. Read Chapters 4 and 8, *And the Soul Shall Dance*. Prepare for Quiz **Written Assignment #2**

Unit Four Directing, concept, casting, image, movement. Read Chapters 5 and 10 and *Angels In America* Prepare for Quiz **Written Assignment #3**

Unit Five Design, concept, image, environment, etc. Read Chapters 6 and 14 and *Dog Lady*. **Written Assignment #4** Review and Mid Term

Unit Six Musical Theatre, periods and style. Read Chapter 7. Prepare for quiz

Unit Seven Form production teams and team orientation.

Unit Eight Project rehearsals and presentations

