

University of Houston-Downtown

Course Prefix, Number, and Title: DRA 1301: Introduction to the Theatre

Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours: 3/3/0

Foundational Component Area: Creative Arts

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Course Description: Topics examine the five essential elements of the theatre: the audience, the actor, the script, the production and the physical theatre. Attendance at plays required; no acting included.

TCCNS Number DRAM 1310

Demonstration of Core Objectives within the Course:

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome	Method by which students' mastery of this outcome will be evaluated
Critical Thinking	Analyze, evaluate, and possibly create works of art with reference to aesthetic contexts and historical frameworks.	*Lectures, readings and discussions on topics examining the five essential elements of theatre: the audience, the actor, the script, the production and the physical theatre; *Required play attendance-- Each student must see and report on three plays.	*Reports on performances- Each student must see and report on three plays; *Quizzes/Exams covering chapter material, discussions and lectures on aesthetic contexts and historical frameworks
Critical Thinking Communication	Efficiently communicate critical inquiry about the creative arts through analytical writing, oral presentation, and visual communication.	*Lectures, readings and discussions on topics examining the five essential elements of theatre: the audience, the actor, the script, the production and the physical theatre	*Oral Chapter Presentations-Each student will be assigned a chapter for which he or she will present; *Play Review rubric provided;
Teamwork Social Responsibility	Collaborate in team-based classroom practices to support the production of knowledge and multiple	*Lectures, readings and discussions on topics examining the five essential elements of theatre: the audience, the actor, the script, the	*Class assignments that require collaborative effort

	perspectives in one or more of the arts disciplines.	production and the physical theatre	*Oral Chapter Presentations-support the production of knowledge for full class and highlights different perspectives
Social Responsibility	Identify the fundamental significance of the creative arts to regional, national, and global communities and discuss the necessity for advancing the role the arts play in these communities.	<p>*Lectures, readings and discussions on topics examining the five essential elements of theatre: the audience, the actor, the script, the production and the physical theatre</p> <p>*Required play attendance-- Each student must see and report on three plays;</p> <p>*Guest Artists-visiting professionals discussing community view of art</p>	Quizzes/Exams-allows for communicating understanding of the necessity for advancing the role the arts play in these communities

Additional Course Outcomes:

- Students will be able to analyze performances of plays
- Students will be able to write descriptive reviews of plays
- Students will have attended a variety of live theatre performances
- Students will be able to compare the contribution of the actors, director, set, light, costume and sound designers to the performance
- Students will be able to analyze the craft of playwriting
- Students will be able to describe the basic historical periods of the theatre
- Students will be able to assess the theatre going experience

Course Outline:

	Section One: Theatre History and Spaces
<p>August 27/28</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/>	<p>Introduction to the course. Homework: Purchase textbook and the Glass Menagerie. Order/start A Raisin in the Sun.</p> <p>Download and print from VISTA the pages from the course handouts folder as well as the course description and syllabus.</p> <p>Read Chapter 1 of the textbook.</p>
<p>August</p>	<p>Discuss Chapter 1: Discuss Theatre Origins: The Greeks.</p> <p>Read or view Oedipus Rex on line.</p> <p>Read Chapter 2</p>

<u>29/30</u>	Oedipus Rex can be found in the Library's database of Films on Demand streaming audio materials.
<u>September 4/5</u>	Discuss Chapter 2; Oedipus Rex, Antigone Fill out Oedipus Questionnaire Read Chapter 3 Note page entitled Chapter 8,Dramatic Characters SEPT. 5: DRAMA INTEREST MEETING 2:30pm and/or 7 pm O'KANE THEATRE
<u>September 6/10</u>	Hand in Oedipus Questionnaire. Discuss Chapter 3 Read Chapter 4
<u>September 11/12</u>	SEPT. 11 and 12 AUDITIONS FOR SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE 1:30-3:30 and 6-8 pm. O'KANE Discuss Chapter 4; Roman and Medieval Spaces Research Everyman online: bring in five observations.
<u>September 13/17</u>	Discuss Everyman. Elizabethan spaces. Opening of Henry IV, streaming Love's Labour's Lost. Quiz 1: Open Book Chapters 1-4
<u>September 18/19</u>	Turn in Quiz 1.The Great Hamlets. View Hamlet and fill out Questionnaire. Download and print pages from Vista entitled Speeches: Henry V Prologue and Henry V St. Crispin's Day

	SECTION TWO: PLAYWRITING
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Septem ber 20/24</p> <hr/>	<p>SEPT. 23 INFORMATION MEETING FOR GREEK TRIP (MAY 11-15,2013) 3 PM O'KANE</p> <p>Bring Henry V speeches.</p> <p>Discuss Shakespeare as a playwright.</p> <p>Readings: Henry V Discuss genres.</p> <p>Read Chapter 9 Tragedy, Comedy and Tragicomedy</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Septem ber 25/26</p> <hr/>	<p>Discuss Chapter 9.</p> <p>Aristotle and Tragedy</p> <p>Read Glass Menagerie</p> <p>Read Chapter 8 Dramatic Structures and Characters.</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Septem ber 27/October 1</p> <hr/>	<p>SEPT. 29 THEATRE WORK PARTY:10-1 FREE PIZZA FOLLOWING O'KANE</p> <p>Discuss Chapter 8;Dramatic Structure: Sam Smiley: Story-telling</p> <p>Groups: Play structures.</p> <p>Read Chapter 7Creating the World of the Play.</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">October 2/3</p> <hr/>	<p>Film: A New Leaf</p> <p>Analyze Structure</p> <p>Read A Raisin in the Sun: Fill out Questionnaire.</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">October 4/8</p> <hr/>	<p>Hand in Raisin Questionnaire. Discuss Chapter 7; finish A new Leaf</p>

	FIRST PLAY REPORT DUE QUIZ 2 CHAPTERS 7-9
	SECTION THREE: ACTING.DIRECTING. PRODUCING
October 9/10	Discuss Acting, historically and in the past. The Great Hamlets. Read Chapter 5
October 11/15	Discuss Chapter 5; Acting in the present Sense memory, emotional recall Names to remember: Stanislavski Lee Strasburg: The Actor's Studio Stanford Eisner Read The Glass Menagerie: fill out Questionnaire
October 16/17	Hand in Glass Menagerie Questionnaire Film on Stanislavski; opening of Tootsie; discuss
October 18/22	Auditioning, preparing, and rehearsing. Find an audition piece from A Raisin in the Sun or The Glass Menagerie. Cut and prepare it. Turn it in next class
October 23/24	Read, discuss, audition pieces; Discuss the actor's job. Read Chapter 6: The Director and the Producer
October	Profit and non-profit theaters; administrative structures.

<u>25/29</u>	Discuss Chapter 6, The Producer.
<u>October 30/31</u>	The Director's Job. Discuss Chapter 6, The Director Divide into groups for Acting/Directing scene
<u>November 1/5</u>	Rehearse scenes. Write second play report.
<u>November 6/7</u>	Present scenes
<u>November 8/12</u>	Film: My Shakespeare Fill out questionnaire.
<u>November 13/14</u>	Finish My Shakespeare Read Chapter 10: Scenery Quiz3: Chapters 4 and 5
	Section 4 Scenery, Costumes, Lights and Sound
<u>November 15/19</u>	Quiz 3 due; discuss scenery Read Chapter 11 Costumes

<p>November 26/27</p> <hr/>	<p>Discuss costumes</p> <p>Read Chapter 13: Lights and Sound</p> <p>Third play report due</p>
<p>November 28/29</p> <hr/>	<p>Discuss Lights and Sound</p> <p>Quiz 4: Technical Theatre, Chapters 11-13</p>
<p>December 3 /4</p> <hr/>	<p>Quiz 4 due</p> <p>Discuss Chapters 13-15</p>
<p>December 5</p> <hr/>	<p>Discuss Chapters 13-15 The Theatre Today</p>

Grading/Course Content which Demonstrates Student Achievement of Core Objectives:

Course Grade A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 0-59

Summary of Course Exams, Quizzes, Activities, and Final	
Class Assignments	70
UHD Production	40
Other Plays	20
	20
Chapter presentation	20
Chapter quizzes (4)	80
Final exam	100
Total	350 points total