Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: March 3, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: THE 104

   Course Name: Introduction to Theatre

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

This course is a general survey of the theatre including the exploration of the production arts (acting, directing, design, play writing, and criticism) and theatre history from 500BC to the present. The primary objectives of the course are to develop an appreciation and understanding of theatre, not merely as a way of telling a story, or a vehicle of production, but as a special kind of artistic creation that combines its own particular methods with the universal values of all art. As a result, students are required to attend departmental and/or area theatre activities as well as to write their own 10-minute play.

Prerequisite: DST 092; DST 095 or placement into ENG 101 or ENG 104.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes:
   1. Students will demonstrate a foundational knowledge of the theatre arts.
   2. Students will recognize the contributions made by various periods of the theatre.
   3. Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the way literary and theatrical elements function together to create a unified work of art.
   4. Students will demonstrate an appreciation of today’s theatre.
   5. Student will read critically a play script in order to analyze it’s dramatic structure, sources of dramatic tension and theme(s).

   Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:
   This course provides students with a background in play production, theatre history and literature. In addition to satisfying the SUNY general education requirement in the Arts, this course helps to satisfy the theatre arts advisement area’s goal to help students satisfy requirements of the first two-years of a baccalaureate program in theatre.
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

- Writing
- Computer literacy
- Oral communications
- Ethics/values
- Reading
- Citizenship
- Mathematics
- Global concerns
- Critical thinking
- Information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Required survey of theatre textbook, play script, and attending a live performance.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

LIVE: Lectures, discussions, play production, video presentations; and attending a live theatrical production.

ONLINE: PowerPoint lectures, discussions, audio and video presentations, and attending a live theatrical production.

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

1. **Online** students participate in discussions on both assigned topics and student directed questions from their reading. **Live** students participate in classroom discussion and in-class writing assignments that contribute to their participation grade.

2. Assessments are given twice a semester in live course and in each module (8) for the online course. Questions cover the history and genre of theatre with an emphasis on recognizing representative plays and playwrights within each time period.

3. **Live delivery method:** Students write and produce a festival of ten-minute plays. **On-line delivery method:** Students write a ten-minute play and write three summary papers that examine acting in, directing, and designing Shakespeare’s Hamlet. In both: Ten-minute play is predominately assessed based on produced-ability, meets the requirements of the genre, and is formatted correctly. The students must use their computer and word processing software to format the play to adhere to precise style guides and play submission standards. Plays are evaluated via an instructor-developed rubric and are subjected to a revision process.

4. Students attend and review a live theatrical performance. The 2-3 page journalistic style review is based on an instructor-developed rubric, is written on a computer, and involves the revision of an initial draft.

5. Students will write an analysis letter analyzing a play’s dramatic structure, sources of dramatic tension, and theme(s).
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

1. The Nature of Theatre
2. The Audience and Criticism
3. The Play
4. Festival theatre: Greek, Roman and Medieval
5. Professional theatre: Elizabethan England, Italian Commedia dell’arte, and Seventeenth-Century France
6. Romanticism to Realism
7. Modernism and Its Effect: 1885-1960
8. Decentralization and Subsidization
9. Contemporary Theatre and Its Diversity
10. Asian and African Theatre
11. Theatrical Space and Production Design
12. Playwriting and Dramaturgy
13. Directing and Producing
14. Acting
15. Scene Design
16. Costume Design and Makeup
17. Lighting and Sound Design