Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: March 3, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: THE 210

   Course Name: Introduction to Dramatic Literature - WI

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

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

   This course is an introduction to the history and genre of drama. By exploring some of the best-known plays throughout theatre history and how they were performed students will develop an understanding of, and appreciation for the theatre. Lectures, films, and attendance will provide students with a partial overview of the vast range of theatre history and literature. Prerequisite: ENG 101 and ENG 103 (also dual-listed as ENG 213)

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes:

   STUDENTS WILL:

   1. Study dramatic works in the context in which they were originally produced.
   2. Discuss and write about drama articulately and intelligently using a vocabulary specific to the discipline (historical periods, genres, staging terms, etc.).
   3. Read plays closely, perceptively, and imaginatively, and to speak and write about them thoughtfully, critically, and creatively.
   4. Discuss plays as both literary and performance texts, and develop an awareness of the significance of performance in understanding theatre.
   5. Propose and write a critical analysis paper that will develop the student as an independent, analytical, creative, and critical thinker.
   6. View and review a live performance.
   7. Work in a group or alone on a creative project in one of the following areas of the theatre (scene or monologue presentation, costume renderings, set design, or playwriting).
   8. Improve information literacy and research skills through journal and website evaluations, as well as preparing works cited pages using MLA formatting.
   9. Read critically from and recognize the difference between primary and secondary sources.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:
This course is intended as the capstone course for Theatre Arts advisement area and is the writing intensive course specific to this discipline. This course is also open to the college community and can either be taken for three credits of Humanities or English elective. Lastly, this course can be used to satisfy the general education ARTS requirement.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- X writing
- X computer literacy
- □ oral communications
- □ ethics/values
- □ reading
- □ citizenship
- □ mathematics
- □ global concerns
- □ critical thinking
- X information resources

### III. Instructional Materials and Methods

**Types of Course Materials:**

a. Textbook  
b. Attendance of a live performance  
c. MLA style manual  
d. Writing handbook and college-level dictionary

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

a. Lectures  
b. Discussion  
c. Play viewing  
d. Formal and informal writing assignments

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

Students will spend a majority of the semester working on their critical analysis paper that is one of the requirements for a writing intensive course. This paper requires each student to create a high quality, critical essay that examines a specific literary or production element from a play off the course’s reading list or compares/contrasts these elements in two plays or productions.

Through the course of the semester students will write two play analysis letters. Each letter will analyze a play based on its sources of tension, dramatic structure, context, and theme.

Students are required to attend a live theatrical production and write a journalistic style review of the show.

The bibliography for the students’ critical analysis will be analyzed for the quantity and quality and appropriate use of sources.

### V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

A. Overview of Theatre History
B. Elements of Drama
C. Why Write about Drama
   a. Close Readings
   b. Play Analysis
   c. Critical Analysis
   d. Reviews
D. Greek
E. Roman
F. Medieval
G. Renaissance
H. Restoration
I. 17th and 18th Century
J. 19th Century
K. Early and Mid 20th century
L. Contemporary
M. Creative Projects