

Introduction to Theater

Course Description:

Introduction to Theatre is a class that explores the basic elements of theatre, including positions held in the production and performing processes. History is also touched on.

Content:

weeks

SECTION 1

- 1 Theatrical Space.
Read chapter 11
Assignment: Give example in class on a theatre you have seen.

- 2 Playwriting
Read chapter 12
Assignment: Pick a playwright that interests you. Write down a play that you have read or seen by this writer and explain.

- 3 Directing/Producing
Read chapter 13
Assignment: Which most interests you- producing or directing? Why?

SECTION 2

- 4 Acting
Read chapter 14
Assignment: Pick an actor in one specific role- write on one element.
Start reading Hairy Ape
Assign Paper on Hairy Ape

- 5 Scene Design
Read Chapter 15
Assignment: Paper on Hairy Ape
Read Hairy Ape

- 6 Costume Design
Read chapter 16
Assignment: Paper on Hairy Ape
Discuss Hairy Ape

- 7 Lighting/Sound Design
Read chapter 17

Paper **DUE** on Hairy Ape

8

MIDTERM

SECTION 3

9

The Nature of Theater

Read Chapter 1 & 2

Assignment: Answer what is art?

10

The Play: Elements/Forms

Read Chapter 3

Assignment: Come up with a plot of your own, using tragedy or comedy

Start reading Oedipus Rex

11

Greek, Roman, and Medieval Theatre

Read Chapter 4

Assignment: How is these theatres similar or different to today's theatre?

Finish Reading Oedipus Rex

Discuss Oedipus Rex

12

Creating A Professional Theatre

Read Chapter 5

Start Reading A Doll's House

Thanksgiving Break

13

From Romanticism to Reality

Read Chapter 6

Finish Reading A Doll's House

Discuss A Doll's House

14

Modernism/Contemporary Theatre

Read Chapter 7, 8, 9, 10

15

Review

FINAL

Textbook: The Essential Theatre, Tenth Edition, Oscar G. Brockett/Robert J. Ball
Other Readings: Oedipus Rex, Sophocles; A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen; The Hairy Ape, Eugene O'Neill

Outcomes: the student should be able to:

- * understand the basic elements of theatre
- * get a broad understanding of the history of theatre from the Greeks to present day
- * understand venue and different theatre spaces
- * be able to understand the process of putting theatre productions on to the stage
- * understand the collaborative effort that entails directors, producers, designers, performers etc.
- * work with other classmates in small projects to fully engage their understanding

Grades: Grading will be based on:
 20 % attendance
 20 % class participation
 20 % assignments (due Fridays)
 20 % tests
 20 % papers

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