

(Revised Spring 2016)

PREREQUISITES: None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: The main elements of theater and how they come together to create a performance. Key practitioners and their work. Theater as a reflection of diverse socio-historical contexts. Key terms use to discuss theatrical productions.

RATIONALE: The course offers students an introduction to theater giving them skills to appreciate theater attendance and participation. Students are introduced to the idea that theater is a multi-disciplinary art form related to other arts (literature, music, and visual arts with acting). Students will become familiar with key modes of theater practice and their relationship to diverse socio-cultural contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of key stages in the evolution of theater practice within the larger context of world history.
2. Discuss the collaborative nature of theater production and how different artists and art forms come together to materialize a vision.
3. Identify the ethical issues and values manifested in theatrical productions in various socio- historical contexts
4. Discuss ways in which theater is a tool to promote social diversity.
5. Recognize the value of theater as a tool for social engagement.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Lectures, directed discussions and presentations. Learning activities include videos of productions and visits to the theater.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of instructor’s office hours for questions, to see their exams/papers, and/or go over lecture material.
- Use of Blackboard

ASSESSMENT:

Summative:

Group project (oral presentation)	40%
Take home exam (1000 words)	60%

Formative:

Discussion of video performances	0
In class written assessment (short answer questions)	0
Discussions of the work of different theater artists	0

Formative assessments prepare students for summative assessments.
 Mid-term tests learning outcomes 1,2
 Final exam tests learning outcomes 3,4,5

The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative assessment grades, based on the predetermined weights for each assessment. Students are not required to resit failed assessments in this module. Failure to pass the module results in module repeat.

INDICATIVE READING:

REQUIRED READING:

Hischak, T. (2005) *Theater as a Human Action: An Introduction*.
Langham: Scarecrow Press.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Cohen, R. (1997) *Theater*. Mayfield Publishing Company, 1997

INDICATIVE MATERIAL:
(e.g. audiovisual, digital material,
etc.)

REQUIRED MATERIAL: n/a

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: n/a

**COMMUNICATION
REQUIREMENTS:**

Use of appropriate English in all written and oral assignments.

**SOFTWARE
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word processing skills.

WWW RESOURCES:

http://directory.google.com/Top/Arts/Performing_Arts/Theater
<http://vl-theater.com>

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. What is theater: defining the key structures that define a theatrical event.
2. Theater in context: changing nature of theater through the ages.
3. The main components of a play.
4. Theater as an art form of many disciplines and how these have defined the various roles and theatrical professions that work together to 'make theater'.
5. Key practitioners in context.
6. Analyzing and appreciating a theatrical performance.
7. Theater in non-Western stages and intercultural performance.
8. Theater and society- theater as a mirror of society, theater as an agent of change.