

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

EN 2244 PERSPECTIVES ON DRAMA
(Previously EN 2344 Introduction to Drama)
(Updated Spring 2014)

3/0/3

PREREQUISITES: WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION:**

A theme-based approach to drama, with emphasis on the ways in which cultural and theoretical contexts shape literary techniques and performance traditions.

RATIONALE: This theme-based course aims to introduce students to the development of drama as a literary and performance genre. Using a variety of texts displaying different aesthetic, cultural, and theoretical backdrops, the course aims to combine theory, textual analysis and performance studies in order to provide students with a holistic appreciation of the evolution of theater.

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Acquire an understanding of the development of theater from classical traditions to postmodern dramaturgy;
2. Demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of the drama genre through the lens of a specific theme;
3. Display awareness of theater as text, theory, and performance;
4. Use critical skills to respond to texts, theory, and performance;
5. Identify stylistic differences and similarities among a variety of plays.

**METHOD OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING:**

Teaching and learning strategies include:

- Lectures, class discussions, workshop-style pair work and group work during class meetings;
- A student-centered classroom which allows students to critically engage with a variety of texts and relate theory to practice;

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- Formative exercises and other learning tasks assigned to help students acquire confidence and benefit from independent study;
- Timely instructor feedback on assignments;
- Additional print and audiovisual educational material posted on the Blackboard course template;
- Other relevant educational material placed on reserve in the library;
- Individualized assistance during office hours for further discussion of lecture material, additional reading, assignments and examinations;
- Close collaboration with Librarian and Writing Center Coordinator to encourage students' effective use of academic support services.

ASSESSMENT:

Formative coursework	0%	Essay drafts and all in-class and out-of-class assignments in preparation for the examination and the critical responses
SUMMATIVE Coursework		
Portfolio of critical responses	50%	Responses to play texts and performances: a total of 2,000-2,500 words; choice of texts, performances, and topics
Comprehensive 2-hour Final examination	40%	Two Essays
Participation	10%	Students' participation in class discussions, work groups, and projects is a prerequisite to the course.

The formative coursework prepares students for successful completion of the summative coursework.

The portfolio of critical responses tests learning outcomes 3, 4 and 5.

The final examination tests learning outcomes 1 and 2.

SUGGESTED READING

MATERIAL:

Fortier, M., *Theory/Theater*, Routledge, 2002.

Goldhill, S., *How to Stage Greek Tragedy Today*, University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Pavis, P., *Analyzing Performance*, The University of Michigan Press, 2003.

Styan, J. L., *Modern Theater in Theory and in Practice*, CUP, 1983.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:

With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA

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guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.

SOFTWARE

REQUIREMENTS: Word, Blackboard

WWW RESOURCES:

<http://www.artsalive.ca/en/thf/aujourd'hui/>
<http://www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/learning/online-resources>

INDICATIVE

CONTENT:

Possible Topics / Themes/ Issues include:

Theater and Violence
Performance and Performativity
Women in Theater
Politics and Theater
From Page to Stage
Reality and Theatrical Illusion
Music and Theater
Theater and Its Language