



21 Spring Semester

Introduction to Theatre

THR 116.I50.SP2021

Number of Credits: 3

Location/Venue: online

Instructor: Dr. Hope Bernard

Contact Email: bernardhope@jccmi.edu

Online Office Hours: I can videoconference or talk on the phone. Please email me to set up a time.

Course Description

Survey of Western theatre and drama. Appreciation of theatre through understanding of historical development and societal function. Theatre architecture, production, costuming, and acting styles, and the artists who create it.

Prerequisite(s)

None.

Course Goals

An introduction to theatre intends to broaden the student's knowledge and appreciation of live storytelling forms, especially of theatrical productions. Throughout the course, the students will learn the definition and function of theatre, its history as a part of Western Civilization, script analysis skills, and parts of theatre production, both onstage and behind the scenes. Students learn about the roles and responsibilities of people who practice theatre, theatre scripts, and the steps of production. Through reading and discussion and class exercises, outside reading of plays, and viewing of theatrical performances, students will apply their knowledge as theatre viewers, critics, and practitioners. Whether they have any experience with theatrical forms or not, students will all gain more understanding and appreciation for theatre as an art form, and how the practice of it can enrich lives. Being willing to read aloud, act, or interact in class exercises is also required.

Course Objectives

The course goals and objectives incorporate specific General Education Outcomes (GEOs) established by the JC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. These goals are in concert with four-year colleges and universities and reflect input from the professional communities we serve. GEOs guarantee students achieve goals necessary for graduation credit, transferability, and professional skills needed in many certification programs. The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include the following:

1. Define theatre and articulate the facets that make theatre a unique art form.
2. Define basic terminology related to stage production, theatre jobs, performance, and scripts.
3. Connect with other theatre practitioners to expand your knowledge and network.
4. Explain how different technical and performance jobs including producers, directors, actors, designers, costumers, technicians, etc., work together to stage a production.
5. Explain why and how theatre has been a part of Western culture, and what compels humans to perform live stories.
6. Critically assess live theatrical performance, evaluating the execution of design, direction, acting, technical elements, and their cohesion and execution.

Textbook

Theatre: A Way of Seeing. By Millie S. Barranger.

Note that this textbook is free with a subscription to Cengage. See course page for information on accessing the text.

There are also a few plays we will read that I will provide to you as PDFs.

Grading

Pretest (aka "Questionnaire"- 6 total)	5 points each
Weekly "Create" assignment (6 total)	60 points each
Weekly quiz (6 quizzes total)	60 points each

Other Assignments

Final Project	150 points
Final Writing Assignment	100 points

Total Points: 1000

Grading Scale

GPA	GRADE
	RANGE

4.0	94-100%
3.5	89-93%
3.0	84-88%
2.5	78-83%
2.0	72-77%
1.5	66-71%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%
0.0	0-54%

Failure

Students must be present every week in posting and discussion. If a student cannot make a deadline or post in time, they should contact the instructor. Much more grace will be given for missing something “excused” than with no prior notice. *Students not active for more than 10 days will be dropped from the class.*

Course Delivery

The course takes place on the JetNet site, which includes discussion boards with features that include audio and video recording. I have found that not all devices work equally well using these features (for example, mine work on my laptop and my phone, but not on my tablet.) So please test out these features as soon as possible to see where you might need to do your recordings from.

Weekly Modules and Assignments

Read: Textbook, scripts, and articles

Watch: Weekly lecture, assigned film clips and videos

Create: Each week you will write, draw, or perform something related to the course materials (due Thursdays 11:55pm)

Quiz: Weekly quiz on reading, lecture, and assigned viewing (closes Sunday 11:55pm)

Makeup Policy/ Working Ahead

With prior notice, students can be let into a week before it begins so they can complete their Create Assignment and take the quiz before the due dates. However, students will not be able to make up the Create or Quiz. The instructor may allow extra credit to make up for a missed Create assignment, but there must be documented reasons for not being able to make the deadline. If you have a personal situation or crisis, please email the instructor as soon as possible to make them aware of the situation.

Help

If a student has difficulty with a component, assignment, or any content in the class they should reach out to the Instructor or Center for Student Success. <https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

Students looking for resources beyond those provided in the course should explore the very accessible tools at www.jccmi.edu/library/

Calendar

The calendar is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be notified of any change as soon as possible.

WEEK #	DATE	TOPIC
1	June 7-June 13	What is Theatre?
2	June 14-June 20	Theatre History and Spaces
3	June 21-June 27	Script Analysis and <i>The Author's Voice</i>
4	June 28-July 4	Actors and Directors
5	July 5-July 11	Performance Studies and <i>Poof!</i>
6	July 12-July 18	Theatre Design: Costumes, Sets, Lights/Sound
7	July 19-July 25	Final Project and Final Writing Assignment

Attendance Policy

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, I will be monitoring attendance at least weekly throughout the term to assure compliance with college policy and federal regulations. It is imperative that you log in to the course and actively participate *within the first couple days of the term* to validate your enrollment in the course. After that, not actively participating in class for more than 10 days will result in you being withdrawn from the course. Being withdrawn from a course can have an impact on financial aid, billing, athletic eligibility, and housing status. As a college student you are responsible for how your participation impacts your academic progress; the accountability lies with you.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation

- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarizing in any form
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Copying
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others
- Altering graded work
- Falsifying data
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical
- Allowing your work to be submitted by others

Caveat

Some revisions may be necessary during the course. I will communicate with you throughout the semester with any updates or changes.