ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

Course Prefix and Number: TH 1353

Course Title: Introduction to Theatre

Semester and Year Submitted: Spring 2014

Credit Hours: 3

Prepared by: Rick Nelson

Hours Per Week: Class 3, Lab 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog):
A survey and analysis of theatre history, literature and practices relating the relevance of the theatre as a social force. Theatre is examined from the perspectives of audience, playwright, director, actor, and designers. May also be taken for Humanities credit.

Prerequisites: None

Text(s):
Title: The Theatre Experience
Edition: 12th Edition
Author: Edwin Wilson
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
Copyright Date: 2011
ISBN #: 9780073382197

Reading Level: 11

Supplemental Materials: (Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: This course is aimed at enriching the student’s life by acquainting the student with the history and literature of the theatre. The course should enlighten the student about the theatre’s importance as a social force and as a reflection of the human condition since ancient times. The course attempts to create an interest in and appreciation of the theatre arts and encourages the students to attend theatrical production for the purpose of entertainment and knowledge. This course is required for all majors.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate recognition of the names of major playwrights and the periods in which they wrote, as well as the titles and content of their most important representative works.

2. Recognize the major periods in theatre history, and explain why drama flourished in these periods and what type of civilization the plays in these periods reflected.

3. Explain major aspects of a theatrical production and the various individuals who contribute to the play.

4. Analyse a theatrical production and understand its structure and purpose.

5. Enjoy theatre as a form of entertainment.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture and demonstration of basic materials and concepts.
2. Discussion of text readings
3. Video, film, and slide presentations
4. Attendance at area theatres.
5. Script readings and discussions

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):

1. Grading of individual essays on productions which student has viewed at Rose State College theatre.

2. Evaluation of individual contribution of the student to class reading, discussion, and participation in theatre projects.

3. Objective grading of unit tests, midterm, and of final examination.

4. Class participation and discussion
Learning Goals:

Unit One: Through unit exam the students will demonstrate that they can do the following: (Learning outcomes 2,3,4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

1. Describe the elements that qualify theatre as a performing art.
2. Understand the actor/audience relationship.
3. Distinguish between theatre critics and theatre reviewers.
4. Define and identify the primary theatre spaces in use today.

Unit Two: Through unit exam the students will demonstrate that they can do the following: (Learning outcomes # 2,3,4, and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

1. Identify the various training methods of acting in both classical and modern texts.
2. Understand the process involved in directing a play.
3. Define what a producer does and why.
4. Understand stage managing and its function in theatre.

Unit Three: Through unit exam and written scenes and essays the students will demonstrate that they can do the following: (Learning outcomes 1, 2,4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

1. Understand the process and importance of playwriting.
2. Describe Greek theatre and its major playwrights.
3. Describe Elizabethan theatre and Shakespeare.
4. Describe modern theatre and its major playwrights.

Unit Four: Through unit exam the students will demonstrate that they can do the following: (Learning outcomes 1,2,3,4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

1. Understand the objectives and aesthetic aspects of set design.
2. Understand the objectives and aesthetic aspects of costume design.
3. Understand the objectives and aesthetic aspects of lighting and sound design.
Unit Five: Through unit exam the students will demonstrate that they can do the following: 
(Learning outcomes 1, 3, 4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

1. Identify the major historical periods of the American musical.
2. Identify the composers and musicals of the major historical periods.
3. Understand the contemporary trends in theatre.