

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL-209

Modern Drama

3 Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Modern Drama studies work written for European and American theater in the last and present century. Students discuss and appraise plays; identify basic elements which distinguish modern drama from earlier periods; evaluate performances of contemporary plays; and study what playwrights have said about the nature of drama. Students also discuss the impact of major philosophical and scientific achievements on dramatic material. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as THET-209.

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Courses Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize literary and theatrical terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation and evaluation of theatrical texts both as literary texts and in performance.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical, and cultural contexts.
4. Write analytically about modern works, using appropriate research and documentation.
5. Evaluate the ongoing power of theatrical performance to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Discuss the major trends in modern and contemporary European and American theatre, including Realism, Naturalism, Expressionism, Epic Theatre and avant-garde.
7. Explain the steps necessary to bring a play to production from acting, directing, and design perspectives.

Major Topics

- I. Commercial vs. non-Commercial Theatre
- II. The Seeds of Modern Drama
- III. Naturalism
- IV. Expressionism
- V. Absurdism and Minimalism
- VI. Epic Theatre
- VII. Musical Theatre
- VIII. The Modern American Theatre

Course Requirements

Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include class discussion of assigned play readings, demonstrations, and viewing live and filmed performances.

Other Course Information

ENGL-209 is a Humanities, Literature and Fine Arts core and a Fine Arts, Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.