

COURSE OUTLINE

THET-131
Theatre Appreciation
3 Semester Hours
Humanities Core Course

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is designed to help students not majoring in theatre develop an appreciation of the art form by understanding the relationship of theatre to society and diverse cultures. Students become familiar with components of stage art including play-writing, acting, directing, and design through practical experiences and viewing of live productions and films. Students will be prepared for greater enjoyment of theatre by developing a more critical eye for the many facets of the art form. (3 hours weekly)

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 Course Objectives

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

1. Evaluate theatre experiences effectively, giving intelligent and sensitive reactions to the production as well as the literary work.
2. Describe the basic concepts of theatre with an understanding of its basic elements and special qualities, differentiate between popular entertainment and art, and identify some of the values of art.
3. Explain the role of the script in theatre, as it relates to dramatic structure, form and style.
4. Explain and illustrate the steps necessary in the process of bringing a script to the stage and how a production is put together.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation for how each theatre artist makes use of his/her materials in this collaborative art form.
6. Illuminate the role and importance of the audience.
7. Describe theatrical performances with a keen awareness of theatrical excellence.
8. Demonstrate an interest in experiencing theatre more fully.

9. Explain different philosophical approaches to acting and distinguish personality and character actors.
10. Explain different theatrical spaces including proscenium, arena, thrust and their particular advantages and challenges.

Major Topics

- I. The Role of Audience
- II. Acting and Actors
- III. Approaches to Directing
- IV. Playwrights
- V. Dramatic Structure
- VI. The Designers
- VII. Stage Spaces
- VIII. Writing a Critique

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include an attendance policy and a final performance.

Students are required to do two hours of work in the Theatres at HCC as ushers, in the box office or backstage. They must also critique two live performances.

Other Course Information

This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities core curriculum requirements at state colleges and universities with some exceptions. It may also be used as a Fine Arts, Humanities, or Arts and Sciences Elective at this institution.