

CM 122-01 THEATRE APPRECIATION
Tue/Thur 12:45 – 2:05 Morton Hall, room 200
Instructor: David Harwell harweld.uah.edu
Office Hours MW 2:30 – 3:45pm MH 325A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre Appreciation provides students with an overview of the artistic process of theatre including such elements as: the play, the stage, the actor, history and modern practices. The goal of this course is to expose students to the rich history and hard work the Theatre entails. There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT

Cohen, Robert Theatre. 8th edition 2008
Doll's House – Ibsen (Rudall translation)
Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
Lysistrata – Aristophanes (Rudall translation)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide you with an overview of theatre in order to discover what makes theatre a unique art form and how this communication media makes an impact on society.
2. To analyze differences in the various theatrical genres (tragedy, comedy, musicals)
3. To observe and to critique theatrical productions in terms of acting, directing, production elements (sets, costumes, lights) and performance standards.
4. To analyze the process of oral communication through improvisation, storytelling and acting.
5. To understand the contributions of playwrights, directors, actors, designers and technicians to the theatrical production and creative drama.
6. To provide an overview of theatre history to understand its purpose in society.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students will come to class on time and respect general rules of courtesy. There will be no food or drink in classroom. Cell phones and devices will be turned off during class. Sleeping is not allowed. Work on other courses during class is prohibited. Lateness may not count as attendance. All conflicts must be directed to the instructor in a timely fashion. Students are expected to attend class and turn in assignments on time. All class material including notes and text books must be present in class. Students must give their best effort on all assignments. This course will assess your grade based on responsibility, effort and attitude. A deeper understanding of the countless disciplines of theatre will be impressed as well as an appreciation for the hard work inherent in each. Social impact and history will be studied. If you are guilty of plagiarism or cheating of any kind, the minimum penalty for student misconduct is an "F" or "0" points for the course, the maximum penalty is legal recourse and expulsion from UAH.

GRADING

- **Three Tests** will be administered during the semester for a total of 50% of the final grade. *Exam dates are listed below and will include a review session the class period noted on the schedule. Make up tests are at the discretion of the instructor.*
- **Research Paper** will constitute 5% of your grade. Five pages minimum, double spaced. Resources must be cited (not included in five page minimum). Topics will be turned in on the date listed below for instructor approval. Failure to do so will reduce the grade by one letter. This paper is intended to further the student's awareness of Theatre and requires the formation of an opinion on the material they have researched. It may not be a rehash of class lecture. *Can be substituted by an enhanced Theatre Project. Negotiate with instructor.*
- **Two live performance papers** are required during the course, revealing observations and opinions of a live theatre performance attended during the semester. This assignment will determine if the student performed well as an audience member. Each will constitute 5% of their final grade for a total of 10%. Papers are due by Nov. 24 – no exceptions.
- **Theatre Project** – Student will assist with a play. Proposals will be made by the students and approved by the instructor. 2-4 hour minimum. 5% of grade.
- **Playwriting assignment** - The scene will be an argument you've had in your head, but never in real life. Three characters maximum. Three pages minimum, with a printed and stapled copy for each character in the scene is required. Further instructions will be given in class. This is worth 5% of your final grade.
- **Quizzes** – students will be given quizzes during the course of the semester. They will test the reading material assigned and the videos watched in class. Overall results will constitute 15% of the final grade.
- **Attendance.** After four unexcused absences, students will be penalized 10% of their final grade. No exceptions. Don't miss class!

Test one	15%
Test two - midterm	15%
Test three - final exam	20%
Research paper	5%
Two live performance papers	10%
Playwriting assignment	5%
Theatre project	5%
Quizzes	15%
Attendance	10%

CM 122 – 01 CLASS SCHEDULE

due dates (in bold) are final

chapters and video are subject to change – notification will be given by instructor

Aug 20	syllabus – orientation
Aug 25	Lysistrata read Chapter 1 –What is Theatre and 2 –What is a Play
Aug 27	Chapter 3 -The Ancients and 4 – The Middle Ages
Sept 1	Chapter 5 – The Renaissance
Sept 3	Shakespeare video (part 1)
Sept 8	Shakespeare video (part 2)
Sept 10	Playwriting assignment due.
Sept 15	Finish student scenes. Discussion
Sept 17	Test 1 review – Research paper topics due
Sept 22	TEST #1
Sept 24	Chapter 7 – the Royal Theatre
Sept 29	Doll’s House read - Chapter 8 – Modern Theatre
Oct 1	Chapter 14 – tech theatre
Oct 6	Chapter 14 – tech theatre
Oct 8	Study Day – No Class
Oct 13	THEATRE Lab – Chan Auditorium
Oct 15	Review for midterm
Oct 20	TEST #2
Oct 22	Musical video (part 1)
Oct 27	Musical video (part 2)
Oct 29	Chapter 10 - Musicals
Nov 3	Research Paper due. Chapter 12- The Actor
Nov 5	Chapter 15 – The Director and 16 – The Critic
Nov 10	Death of a Salesman read. Chapter 13 – The Playwright
Nov 12	THEATRE Lab – Studio 106
Nov 17	Realism video (part 1)
Nov 19	Realism video (part 2)
Nov 24	Chapter 9 – The modern theatre
Nov 26	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving
Dec 1	Performance papers due. Last class – Review for final
TBD	TEST #3 - FINAL

