

THAR 2 Course Outline as of Fall 2005

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: THAR 2

Title: INTRO TO THEATRE ARTS

Full Title: Introduction to Theatre Arts

Last Reviewed: 2/24/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: THAR 301

Catalog Description:
An introduction to theatre as both an art form and social forum, emphasizing the interrelated processes of playwriting, acting, directing, design, technical theatre, theatre criticism, theatre management, and theatre architecture. Students will study theatre from a variety of perspectives through lectures, attending plays, reading scripts, and hands-on experiences. Course includes a theoretical examination of the role of theatre in society. Field trips to three theatre productions are required (discounted admission; students provide own transportation).

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: An introduction to theatre as both an art form and social forum, emphasizing the interrelated processes of the many artistic and technical aspects of theatre. Students study the theatre arts through lectures, discussions, reading scripts, hands-on experiences, and attending

three plays (required field trips; discounted admission arranged). (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2005	
CSU GE:	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	Fall 1988
	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	C1	Arts	Fall 2005	
	C1	Arts	Fall 1981	Fall 1988
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	3A	Arts	Fall 2005	
CSU Transfer: Transferable		Effective:	Fall 2005	Inactive:
UC Transfer: Transferable		Effective:	Fall 2005	Inactive:

CID:

CID Descriptor: THTR 111 Introduction to Theatre

SRJC Equivalent Course(s): THAR2

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Certificate Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

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

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the theatre as a complex and diverse art form, as well as its ever-changing role in modern society.
2. Analyze the different responsibilities and contributions of the actor, playwright, director, designer, technician, management, producer, critic and audience, while recognizing the collaborative nature of the theatre.
3. Critique a theatrical production, both holistically and through an analysis of the contributions of the various artistic elements.
4. Identify and theoretically solve the artistic challenges of a script, applying basic script analysis techniques for structural, thematic, and interpretive elements.
5. Participate in one or more areas of the theatre at an introductory level, following instructions and working constructively with others.
6. Correctly apply basic theatre terminology while demonstrating an introductory understanding of the positions, processes, and career opportunities in the theatre.
7. Discern the interdisciplinary contributions of other art forms and fields of study to the creation of theatre.

8. Recognize the major genres, styles, and movements of the modern theatre.
9. Communicate using various theatre design "languages" such as sound, light, texture, color, mass, rhythm, etc.
10. Design and implement a basic research strategy, identifying questions, accessing key theatre resources, and problem-solving when necessary.

Topics and Scope:

- I. What Is Theatre?
 - A. Short history and theoretical overview of origin
 - B. The role of theatre in society today
- II. How to Read a Play
 - A. Dialogue and stage directions
 - B. Structure, plot and story
 - C. Character
 - D. Language
- III. How to See a Play
 - A. Buying tickets
 - B. Attending a play
 - C. Audience etiquette
- IV. The Role of the Critic and Reviewer
 - A. How to read a review
 - B. Comparing reviews
 - C. Writing a review or critique
- V. Types of Plays and Productions
 - A. Genres
 - B. Styles, theories, and movements
 - C. Conventions
- VI. Producing Companies and Theatres
 - A. Types and categories (for profit, academic, etc.)
 - B. Where to find theatres
 1. Sonoma County and Bay Area theatres
 2. Famous theatres in California today
 3. Famous theatres around the country today
 4. Famous theatres around the world today
 - C. How a theatre company is organized
- VII. Theatre Architecture and Theatrical Spaces
 - A. Short history
 - B. Audience configurations
 - C. Theatre buildings and found spaces
 - D. Working spaces within a theatre
 - E. Theatre tour (virtual and/or actual)
- VIII. The Art of the Playwright
 - A. Short history and theories
 - B. The process, research and terms
 - C. Career paths
 - D. Brief study of a modern playwright
- IX. The Art of the Actor
 - A. Short history and theories
 - B. The process, research and terms
 1. Researching and preparing a character

- 2. Training the instrument
- 3. Auditions and rehearsing
- C. Career paths
- D. Study of a modern actor
- X. The Art of the Director
 - A. Short history and theories
 - B. The process, research, and terms
 - 1. Director's concept and research
 - 2. Collaborating with others
 - 3. Rehearsal process
 - 4. Staging techniques (brief introduction)
 - C. Related positions
 - D. Career paths
 - E. Brief study of a modern director
- XI. Introduction to Theatre Design and Technology
 - A. Principles of design (line, mass, color, texture, etc.)
 - B. Design and technology Areas - With each of the following design and technology areas (1-6. below) the class will study:
 - A brief history and theoretical overview of the area
 - An introduction to the area's process, research, and terms
 - The various positions within the area
 - Education and career paths within the area
 - 1. Scenery
 - 2. Properties
 - 3. Costume
 - 4. Makeup and hair
 - 5. Lighting/visual effects
 - 6. Sound/composition
- XII. Design/Director Collaboration (Actual/Virtual demonstration)
- XIII. Stage Management
- XIV. The Business of Theatre
 - A. Box office
 - B. House management
 - C. Producing and administration
 - D. Promotion, public relations, and audience development
 - E. Outreach
 - F. Government support, grants and sponsorships
 - G. Unions

Assignment:

As a 3-hour lecture course, students will complete 6 hours of homework per week, which may include:

- 1. Reading:
 - A. Read approx. 10-20 pages per week from text.
 - B. Read, analyze, and discuss 2-3 plays:
 - a. One of the plays the class will attend.
 - b. The play for Acting/Directing scene (if from a published play).
 - c. The play for Director/Designer project.
- 2. Attending Plays (Field Trips):

Attend and prepare to discuss 3 productions selected by the instructor. Productions may be Theatre Arts productions (voucher),

SRT summer productions (discounted admission), community theatre productions (discounted admission), or professional productions (discounted admission). Students will obtain or purchase tickets through the Theatre Arts Box Office for designated performances. Those students unable to attend the scheduled performances will be given an alternative assignment (viewing another live or recorded production).

3. Hands-On Experiences:

A. Playwriting - write a brief scene or scenario. (approx. 2 pages)

B. Acting/Directing - each student will be teamed with 1-2 fellow students to stage, rehearse, memorize and perform a brief scene. (1-2 minutes) Those who do not want to act may serve as directors. Scenes may be from published plays or neutral scenes.

C. Reviewing -

a. Compare and contrast two reviews of the same production. (approx. 2 pages)

b. Write a review of 1-3 of the productions attended, following review criteria. (approx. 2 pages/critique)

D. Production Hours - actively participate in the production process by completing 10 hours in one of the following areas:

a. Costume shop

b. Scene shop

c. Ushering (4 performances)

d. Publicity

[Hours must be completed within the posted times/calendar for the area selected. (Students unable to participate in one of these may complete a comparable project relating to the production of plays, with the instructor's permission.)]

4. Director/Designer Project:

Teamed with a fellow student (one serving as director and one as designer), each student will research, conceptualize, and create a production treatment display for a play of their choosing. Projects will be displayed in class. Written documentation will include a summary of research and script analysis, as well as bibliography. (Display and approx. 3 page written documentation)

5. Exam: Final exam on terms and concepts covered during the semester.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Playwriting, review, project summary

Writing
20 - 35%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Director/Designer Project

Problem solving
15 - 20%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Performance

Skill Demonstrations
10 - 15%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items, Completion, Short answer, essay

Exams
20 - 25%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and Participation; Production Hours

Other Category
20 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Instructor prepared materials

Theatre: A Way of Seeing (5th Edition). Barranger, Milly S.
Wadsworth: 2002

The Enjoyment of Theatre (6th Edition). Cameron, Kenneth M. and
Gillespie, Patti P. Allyn & Bacon: 2000.

Another Opening, Another Show: A Lively Introduction to the Theatre.
Markus, Tom and Sarver, Linda. Mayfield: 2001