

Title of course: **Introduction To Theatre**
Name of professor: DR.CAROLINE MERCIER
Semester: Summer 2017
Email Hours: M-F 4-7pm cmercier@csustan.edu

PRESENTATION:

This class is designed to introduce students to the world of live theatre, its history, its plays, its practical application and position of importance in our everyday world. Students will be introduced to all the elements of theater, including the acting, directing and designing process, as well as the different types of performances and drama forms. Students will learn about these elements through lectures and threaded discussions as well as reviewing a live performance. The main objective of this course is to provide an overall view of theater, while learning how to enjoy the dramatic experience.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

- Appreciate fully the theatre experience
- Learn about the elements of theatre
- Understand the various theatre movements in an historical perspective
- Understand the roles and function of actors, directors and designers
- Understand the elements and structure of playwriting
- Learn about musical theatre and the impact of Broadway theatres
- Be able to create a character and dialogue in a theatrical setting
- Be able to critique a play objectively

REFERENCE TEXT (Obligatory):

- ***The Theatre Experience*, by Edwin Wilson (12th Ed. preferred)**

EXTERNAL SEMESTER ASSIGNMENT:

Students will be required to attend and write **1** critique of a play performed in their area during the period of the course. It is important that you book your tickets quickly. Directives of content will be given in class. The review must be typed written and emailed no later than the last week of the semester, but can be given at any time before. A scanned ticket stub must accompany the review.

CALENDAR:

Week 1: Introduction to course syllabus, material and projects
Reading on « Elements of theatre »
Chapter 1

INTRO QUIZ-July 4

Reading on « The audience»
Chapter 2
Reading on « The critic »
Chapter 3
Workshop: reviewing an article

EXAM 1- July 6
Critique- Find play/Book tickets

Week 2: Reading on « Types of theatre and spaces »
Chapter 4
Reading on « Acting »
Chapter 5
Workshop: Acting exercises

Reading on « Playwrighting»
Chapter 7-8
Reading on « Styles of text »
Chapter 9
Workshop: How to read a play

EXAM 2- July 13

Week 3: Reading on « The dramatic character »
Chapter 8
Workshop: Maskmaking

Reading on « Designing for theatre »
Chapter 10-11-12
Workshop: Sketching

EXAM 3- July 20

Week 4: Reading on « Directing and producing »
Chapter 6
Workshop: Putting on the play (groups)

Reading on « Musical theatre »
Chapter 13
Reading on « Global and Contemporary theatre »
Chapter 14-15

Hand in Critique- Anytime before July 27

EVALUATION:

FORMATIVE EVALUATION:

All during the session, the students will be graded individually on the quiz, exams, threaded discussions, and critique. You will do the quiz the 1st week of class. The students will receive grades at the end of each exam (ASAP) please check your grade center regularly and contact me with any question.

- Quiz..... 5%
 - Exams x3 60%
 - Critique..... 25%
 - Group discussions and class activities..... 10%
- Total: 100%

Grading scale used for letter grades is as follows:

A+ 100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
F below 60			

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

- QUIZ (Week 1):
 - There will be 1 introductory quiz to help me grasp the extent of your own personal theatre experience and previous knowledge. This quiz is not about finding the right or wrong answer, but being expressive and denoting your interest and commitment. Read the introduction, be generous and write a good paragraph for each question!
- EXAMS (Week 1- 2- 3):

There will be **3** examinations during the semester. The exams will cover the information received during the whole period prior to the test and are not cumulative. They are a mix of T/F, multiple answer, matching and essay questions. Answers are provided upon submission, so it is NOT possible to take an exam before or after the day.
- CRITIQUE (week 4 or before):

You'll choose a play, go see it, then write an essay (3-4 pages double spaced, no less please) that will explain the esthetical and dramatic choices of the author and

director, as well as your impression of the acting, all the designs, play writing and the overall effect on the audience. You must take the position of the analyst here not the spectator (use the third person not the "I"). Research the play and company before going. Observe what is on stage, in the lobby, the audience reaction, etc. Identify what makes it work rather than what you liked about it. Please include all references (including playbill), and structure your essay to have an introduction, then a paragraph for each theatre element (play, directing, producing, acting, all the designing, intention, etc...) and then a conclusion. Cite full names of participants and give strong examples of your observations. Please look at the "Critique Notes" located on BB under "Information and Syllabus" before going to see the show.

Rubrics:

- The critique is well written and clearly structured
- It discusses all the areas of theatre
- There are good examples for the observations written
- Full names of show participants are mentioned
- The tone is neutral and subject well researched
- Scanned/photo copy of ticket (added to the paper)
- Short bibliography of your research and clear references in the text (citations in brackets, footnotes or author's name, etc...)

- **GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND CLASS ACTIVITIES (week 1 to 4):**

Group discussions are an interesting way of taking roll call for me, and at the same time help you communicate with each other on a continuous basis. There will be topics and questions provided to get the conversation started.