

Modesto Junior College  
Course Outline of Record  

THETR 100

I. OVERVIEW  
The following information will appear in the 2011 - 2012 catalog

THETR 100 Introduction to Theatre Arts  3 Units

Investigation of the process of the collective art of the theatre, the role of the actor, director, playwright, designer, technician and audience. Survey of the origins of the theatre, its development as an art form, and the social, political and cultural implications of this art form at various points in history. Attendance of MJC theatre productions required.

Field trips might be required.  (A-F or P/NP - Student choice) Lecture

Transfer: (CSU, UC)  General Education: (MJC-GE: C ) (CSU-GE: C1 ) (IGETC: 3A )

II. LEARNING CONTEXT  
Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. COURSE CONTENT

1. Required Content:

a. The Process of the Theatre---The Function of:

i. Playwright

ii. Director

iii. Designer (scenic, lighting, costume)

iv. Actor

v. Others involved in the process such as the producer, agent, technician, stage manager, etc.

vi. Audience

b. Theatre history and genres

i. Greek and Roman

ii. Elizabethan

iii. Restoration and French Renaissance

iv. Modern drama in 19th Century

v. Styles of theatrical productions and play genres

a. Naturalism

b. Expressionism

c. Selected realism

d. Other non-realistic approaches (epic theatre, surrealism, avant-garde, experimental)
a. The contemporary American Theatre  

b. Broadway  

c. Off-Broadway  

d. Regional theatres

B. HOURS AND UNITS

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<th>INST METHOD</th>
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C. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)

Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:

1. Lecture, discussion, reading and writing
2. Powerpoint slides, video tapes, films, film strips audio tapes, and handouts to supplement lecture, discussion and reading
3. Field trips to professional, community and educational theatre performances
4. Guest lectures and/or workshops by theatre experts

D. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. **EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS**
   
   Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)

   a. Study for weekly quizzes.
   
   b. Daily reading of materials.
   
   c. One final project/paper, per term.
   
   d. Study for midterm and final exams.
   
   e. Critiques of live shows, two per term.
   
   f. Critiques of films, two per term.
   
   g. Journal reviews, two per term.

2. **EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING**
   
   Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking

   a. Typical essay question:
      
      i. Name and describe the five steps of Oedipus Rex
      
      a. Why are the gods punishing Thebes?
b. Who killed Laios?

c. Does Kreon want the throne?

d. Who is Oedipus?

e. Anagnorisis and Exodos

b. Attend a play and write a critique, including the four elements listed below.
   i. Entertainment quality
   ii. Educational quality
   iii. Production (mise en scene)
   iv. Final impressions

E. TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)


III. DESIRED LEARNING

A. COURSE GOAL
   As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

   identify the collaborative process of the art of theatre; define the specific functions of the actor, director, playwright, designers, producer, technicians, audience and crew. The student should be prepared to also identify the major genres of theatre; critique and evaluate play text and performance and identify the basic theatre terminology.

B. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS
   Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.

   1. Required Learning Goals
      Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

      a. Identify the specific function of specific theatre practioners: actor, director, playwright, producer and designers*

      b. Describe the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of theatre

      c. Identify and describe major periods of theatre history*

      d. Describe and differentiate styles of theatrical performance*

      e. Identify the importance of theatrical study as an essential human need to create and perform

      f. Identify theatre etiquette and responsibility as both a performer and as an audience member

      g. Define and describe basic theatre terminology
h. Identify basic theatrical aesthetic concepts
i. Evaluate critically play texts and performances

IV. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

A. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT
   1. Examinations, including essays
   2. Term project on some aspect of theatre history or production: a written paper, construction of a stage model, an original one-act play, etc.
   3. Quizzes

B. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT
   1. Final exam, to include essay
   2. Written reports of MJC Theatre productions and at least one professional production emphasizing support of a thesis from a critical perspective