

Course Description: DRA 110 Introduction to Drama (A basic survey of theatre practices, types, conventions.) Fulfills the Fine Arts requirement. 3 credits.

Instructor: Louis G. Courie, B.A. Spring Hill College, M. A. University of Alabama.

Texts:

Cohen, Robert. *Theatre: Brief Version*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2000

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. (Text available in USA bookstore; or on-line at www.triton.cc.il.us/undergrad__ctr/files/dollshse.html)

The goals/objectives of this course are:

1. To inculcate in the student a basic understanding of theatre's creative process, from inception to performance.
2. To share a variety of theatrical experiences.
3. To enable the student to form a "worldview" of contemporary theatre, its structures, methods and content.
4. To give the student a broad understanding of the evolution of theatre.

Requirements:

1. Attend all classes. (Attendance is recorded and reported.)
2. Read text, printed notes and play script, as assigned.
3. Take 4 written tests. (Multiple Choice, short answer completions, True-False, listings)
4. Make-up tests are possible, with valid written excuse & by timely arrangement with the instructor.
5. Attend the following Theatre USA productions:
 - a. *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Feb. 20-23@8pm <mailto:20-23@8pm> & Feb. 24@2pm <mailto:24@2pm>.
 - b. *Romeo & Juliet* (April 17-20@8pm & April 21 @2pm <mailto:5@7pm>
6. Write a critique of the USA productions (as part of unit tests)
7. Extra credit is possible through attendance at local theatres.

Evaluation:

Four (4) Written Tests -25% each Total: 100%

Office: Laidlaw Performing Arts Center (PAC) 1054 Phone: 460-6305

Office Hours: Monday, 5-6pm, or by appointment.

Notice: "In accordance with the the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a

disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations.”

SYLLABUS: DRA 110-51. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CHAPTERS IN ADVANCE OF THE LESSON.

1/07: Introduction to the Course

Survey of Contemporary Theatre (local, regional, national, international)

NOTE: Lecture/demonstration/discussion: the usual format

1/14: Cohen, Chapter 1-The Nature of Theatre (7-26)

1/21: **MLK DAY. No classes.

1/28: Chapter 2-“The Play” (27-52) and Chapter 3-“The Actor” (53-77)

Note: Read notes on *Oedipus Rex* (see handout)

2/04: Test #1 (Chapters 1-3, *Oedipus Rex* and notes)

Video and Discussion of *Oedipus Rex*

2/11: **No classes. This is comp time for attendance at *Dancing At Lughnasa*

2/18: Chapter 4-“The Playwright” (79-108)

Discussion of Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* and of USA’s *Lughnasa*

2/25: Chapter 5-“Designers & Technicians” (109-151).

3/04: Test #2 (Chapters 4-5, *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *A Doll’s House* & notes)

3/11: Chapter 6-“The Director” (153-192)

3/18: Chapter 7-“Theatre Traditions: East and West” (193-220)

3/25: Chapter 8-“The Modern Theatre” (221-254)

4/01: Test #3 (Chapters 6-8 and notes)

4/08: Chapter 9-“The Musical Theatre” (255-270)

Lecture/Discussion and videos

4/15: **No classes. Comp time for attendance at *Romeo and Juliet*

4/22: Chapter 10-“Theatre Today” and Chapter 11-“The Critic” (271- 332)

4/29 Test #4: Final Test (Chapters 9-11 and notes)