

Theater 3001:001-Theatre Special Topics: Dramatic Studies

Summer 2010

Professor Mark Creter

Credit Hours: 3.0

Prerequisites: None.

Catalog Course Description: Dramatic Studies is a course designed to enhance the student's enjoyment of plays through understanding their part in communicating the human experience and shaping culture.

“Theatre represents social history in the making, both on the stage and in the audience. It signifies the community we have forsaken, the accidents and risks we would rather avoid, the sweat and gristle we prefer to disguise, the labor of humans working against the odds. On the threshold of each new season no more promising than the last... Theatre represents an act of confidence-banal and dangerous and inconvenient like life and like life, still capable of inspiring hope.”

from *Who Needs Theatre* by Robert Brustein

Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Theatre by Robert Cohen

Woycek by Georg Büchner

Der Reigen by Arthur Schnitzler

The Weavers by Gerhart Hauptmann

The Investigation by Peter Weiss

The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht

Week/Unit/Topic Basis: modify for number of weeks

Course Objectives*: This course will explore the history, components, and creation of theatrical performance. You will gain a sense of its origins and its purposes, as well as the challenge of putting together a staged event. We will examine theater practices ancient and contemporary. Our overall goal in the class will be to understand how theatres express or confront the prevailing values of a community. Students will focus on theatre as a force of cultural influence, social change, and understanding what it means to be human through textual analysis, performance. We will examine the work of notable German playwrights such as Georg Buchner, Arthur Schnitzler, Gerhardt Hauptman, Peter Weiss and Bertolt Brecht to better understand how they utilized the theatre to examine the human condition.

Instructional Processes*:

The objectives of Theatre Special Topics address the following university general education outcome goals:

1. Interpretive, strategic, and adaptive reasoning.
2. Effective communication skills.
3. Evidence of reading extensively and perceptively.
4. Recognition of various social institutions, cultures, ethics, and values and their relationships in the world society.
5. A recognition and appreciation of the aesthetic features of literature and the visual and performing arts.

Expectations for Student Performance*:

The following expectations apply to all students enrolled in this course:

1. Discipline; theatre is a discipline.
2. Creativity; originality, imagination, and ingenuity.
3. Resourcefulness; creativity and doing "a lot with a little."
4. Synthesis; bringing together observations, readings, and lecture material.
5. Professionalism; attitude plus commitment to quality work.
6. Communication; communicate, share ideas, suggestions.
7. Punctuality; be on time--in all class matters.
8. Teamwork; theatre is collaborative.

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Evaluation: Grading:

Theater 3001-course mark will be based on 100 possible total points earned by attending all of the lectures, participating in the class discussions, a good-faith effort on all group assignments, reading the assigned chapters in the main text and, posting an online reaction to each book chapter, reading each of the assigned plays and, posting an online reaction to each play.

A = Everything turned in on time.

B = All major projects turned in on time, but some other assignments missing.

C = One project missing, or mediocre effort on several projects.

D = Two projects missing, or all other assignments missing, or a combination.

F = Don't even think about it.

Policies

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.