

# THEA-100: INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

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## Effective Term

Fall 2026

## CC Approval

11/07/2025

## AS Approval

11/13/2025

## BOT Approval

11/20/2025

## SECTION A - Course Data Elements

### Send Workflow to Initiator

No

### CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Drama/Theater Arts (Master's Degree)	

### Subject Code

THEA - Theater Arts

### Course Number

100

### Department

Theater Arts

### Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

### Full Course Title

Introduction to Theater

### Short Title

Introduction to Theater

### CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

### CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

### CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

### Rationale

Add online option to be permanent.

## SECTION B - Course Description

### Catalog Course Description

This course focuses on the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history, and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to elements of the production process including playwriting, acting, directing, design, and criticism. Students will also survey different periods, styles and genres of theatre through play reading, discussion, films and viewing and critiquing live theatre, including required attendance of theatre productions.

**SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment****Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

**Repeatability**

Not Repeatable

**Grading Options**

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

**Allow Audit**

Yes

**Requisites****SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

**Units**

3.00

**Lecture Hours**

54.00

**Outside of Class Hours**

108

**Total Contact Hours**

54

**Total Student Hours**

162

**Distance Education Approval****Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

**Online Delivery Methods**

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

**SECTION E - Course Content****Student Learning Outcomes****Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Analyze dramatic literature.
2. Show a cultural and artistic appreciation of theatre arts.
3. Produce a piece of theater for peer, academic or public review.

**Course Objectives****Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Analyze and evaluate the nature of theatre and its role in society.
2. Assess the historical, artistic, social, and philosophical contexts in which theatre exists.
3. Critically analyze dramatic literature and performances.

4. Identify and examine theatrical components in production.
5. Propose alternative solutions to theatrical production situations.
6. Appreciate viewing theatre as an art form.

### Course Content

1. Background and development of theatre: the rise of theatre, the development of drama and theatrical performance, theatre and its relationship to society, multicultural issues, relationship to TV and film.
2. The play and the playwright: the elements and structure of a play, basic differences between the play and the novel, and the substance, form, and technique of the playwright.
3. The acting and the actors: theories and techniques of acting, the actor's relationship to the technician, playwright, and play.
4. The direction and the director: theories and techniques of directing a play, coordinating roles of the physical theatre.
5. The evolution of theatre architecture
6. The design and design technicians: the role of costumes, scenery, sound, and lighting design and designers in production, technical elements of the play and the role of the technicians in properties, lighting, painting, building, special effects, music or sound effects, and wardrobe and make-up.
7. The business of show business.
8. The audience and dramatic criticism.
9. The Greek theatre: development, performance style, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.
10. The Roman and Medieval theatre: performance style, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.
11. Asian theatre: performance style, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.
12. Renaissance theatre: performance style, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.
13. Neoclassic and Restoration theatre: performance style, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.
14. Romantic theatre: performance style, production elements, and cultural and /or political significance.
15. Realism and Modern theatre: performance styles, production elements, and cultural and/or political significance.

### Methods of Instruction

#### Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Provide instruction on theories and techniques in applying critique to theatrical works that are substantive and meaningful.
Lecture	Provide background and perspective on the theory of theatrical performances and productions throughout history.
Visiting Lecturers	Engage actors and theater personnel to provide perspective on specific theatrical processes, planning, and productions.

#### Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	Engage in, and monitor, discussion boards dedicated to theatrical technique and production value.
Group Work	Engage group discussion via online platform to critique/evaluate theatrical productions in their entirety.
Lecture	Provide background and perspective on the theory of theatrical performances and productions throughout history.

#### Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards  
 Chat Rooms  
 Discussion Boards  
 E-mail Communication  
 Telephone Conversations  
 Video or Teleconferencing

#### Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms  
 Discussions  
 Group Work

**Course design is accessible**

Yes

**Methods of Evaluation****Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Midterm and Final Exam.
Quizzes	Biweekly quizzes on content delivered in interim since prior quiz.
Projects	Students will be required to complete pre-production assignments and projects, shooting assignments, editing projects, mid-term and final projects and examinations and participate in group and written critiques.  For example: 1. Choose a location to shoot a scene, 2. Film a rehearsal and present it for a class critique. Written reviews of live theater performances.

**Assignments****Reading Assignments**

Selected readings from textbook, periodicals or library collection covering and expanding on lecture.

For Example:

Read Chapter 2, focusing on the classification of plays.

Read Chapter 7, covering the origins of theater.

**Writing Assignments**

Written evaluations of plays viewed in class.

For example:

1. Write a three-page, typewritten analysis of the production of "Master Harold and the Boys," identifying and evaluating the design and performance elements of the production.

2. Topical essays expanding on course material.

For example: Write a three-page paper comparing naturalism to realism.

**Outside-of-Class Assignments**

Research paper or other writing projects that develop a related topic.

For example:

Students are to select a paper topic covering a critical analysis and evaluation of the artistic elements of film noir covered in the course this semester. This paper is designed as a research project and students are expected to go beyond the level of information found in the course textbook. Students must find a minimum of five sources for this paper. Of those five, no more than two may be periodical sources and no internet sources are allowed, except where students can demonstrate the academic verifiability and validity of a source. Paper will be in the MLA format using parenthetical citations. The body of the text must be a minimum of 7 pages and no more than 15. Work will be graded on a 50-point rubric that evaluates format; development of the body of the text including a thesis, relevant examples, integration of research, conclusion and merit of original premise; punctuation; grammar; bibliography; citations; and use of images.

**SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials****Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Thomas S. Hischak

**Title**

Theatre as Human Action

**Publisher**

Rowman &amp; Littlefield

**Year**

2023

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## **SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity**

**How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?**

Course provided equitable access to all students interested in pursuing history of theater.

### **Course Codes (Admin Only)**

**CB00 State ID**

CCC000313871

**CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**CB11 Course Classification Status**

Y - Credit Course

**CB13 Special Class Status**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**CB23 Funding Agency Category**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**CB24 Program Course Status**

Program Applicable

**Allow Pass/No Pass**

Yes

**Only Pass/No Pass**

No