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Course Guide

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Theatre Arts 101 Introduction to the Theatre

University of Idaho
3 Semester-Hour Credits

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1 – Theatre 101

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THE 101: Introduction to the Theatre 3 Semester-Hour Credits: UI

Welcome!

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about assignments, exams, and grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

Policies and Procedures

Refer to the ISI website at www.uidaho.edu/isi and select Students for the most current policies and procedures, including information on setting up accounts, student confidentiality, exams, proctors, transcripts, course exchanges, refunds, academic integrity, library resources, and disability support and other services.

Course Description

The 101 - Introduction to the Theatre (3 U-Idaho)

Building an appreciation for theatre as an art form through understanding the creative process of the playwright, the director, the designer, and the actor. Attendance at theatre productions reqd. U-Idaho Students: *May be used as core credit in J-3-d as humanities.* For non-majors.

Required: Internet access, access to a computer, and the ability to play either DVDs or video tapes. Attendance at theatre productions.

Recommended: Microsoft Word

5 graded reading quizzes (online), 2 graded theatrical reviews, 7 graded unit tests (online), 1 proctored exam

Course Materials

Required Course Materials

- Panttaja, Dean F. *Theatre: a Practical Approach*, 3rd ed., **Text is available online**
- Specified Videotapes or DVD's of plays as necessary. If live theatre is not available near you for your theatrical reviews, the instructor will give you some alternative titles of suitable theatrical works made for film available at your local video rental store.

Course Delivery

All ISI courses are delivered through Canvas, an online management system that hosts the course lessons and assignments and other items that are essential to the course. Upon registration, the student will receive a Registration Confirmation Email with information on how to access ISI courses online.

Course Introduction

Theatre is a complex artistic undertaking with over three millennia of development and experimentation. The craft of storytellers before writing, theatre is the representation of what it means to be human and to live. Theatre is a mirror held up to society so that it may look upon itself and better understand where it has been and what it plans to accomplish. Theatre is a shared experience. Theatre is community. Theatre is discussion.

Course Objectives

A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to theatre as a field that offers a unique expression of human thought and feeling. We also hope to develop responsive and informed theatre audiences and advocates. We propose to accomplish this through:

- Encouraging an understanding of the dramatic and theatrical impulse.
- Examining dramatic literature, theatrical presentations, and production methodologies.
- Developing an appreciation of how theatrical works of art reflect the societies/cultures that create them.
- Instill in you an ability to understand, analyze, and discuss--both orally and in writing--works of dramatic literature in performance from various periods and genres.
- Promote a comprehension of and sensitivity to the creative processes and aesthetic values inherent in theatrical works of art.

Lessons

Overview

There are 14 Lessons followed by additional readings, quizzes and tests. It is expected that the lessons and assignments be followed in the sequence they are presented to maximize the objectives of the course.

Study Hints:

- Complete all reading assignments.
- Set a schedule allowing for course completion one month prior to your personal deadline. An *Assignment Submission Log* is provided for this purpose.
- Web pages and URL links in the World Wide Web are continuously changing. Contact your instructor if you find a broken Web page or URL.
- Theatrical Plays can be hard to read at first. Be prepared to read them more than once to grasp the full meaning and content.

Refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas for further details on assignment requirements and submission.

Exams

- You must wait for grades and comments on lessons prior to taking subsequent exams.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas. Refer to *Grading* for specific information on lesson/exam points and percentages.

Grading

The course grade will be based upon the following considerations:

Introduction Blog Post	50 pts.
Definition of Art	50 pts.
5 Self-Administered Quizzes	150 pts.
7 Unit Tests	350 pts.
2 Reviews of Theatrical Performances	200 pts.
1 Proctored Comprehensive Final	100 pts.
TOTAL POINTS	900 pts.

The final course grade is issued after all lessons and exams have been graded.

Acts of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism are considered a very serious transgression and may result in a grade of F for the course.

About the Course Developer

The course developer is Dean Panttaja, a professor in Theatre Arts at the University of Idaho. He received his Ph.D. in Education at the University of Idaho in 1996 and his MFA in Theatre at Humboldt State University in 1981. He has spent thirty years as a professional designer and arts educator. His work is both nationally and internationally recognized. He helped to develop this particular course in 1986 and has continued to craft its development over the ensuing years.

Contacting Your Instructor

Instructor contact information is posted on your Canvas site under *Course Rules*.

<u>Assignment Submission Log</u>			
Lesson	Description	Date Submitted	Grade Received
*	Introduction Blog Post		/50 pts
1	Definition of Art		/50 pts
2	Theatre as Art and Theory Test		/50 pts
	Theatrical Review I		/100 pts
3	The Practioners Test		/50 pts
4	The Classical Period Test		/50 pts
5	Oedipus Rex Quiz (short answer)		/30 pts
6	The Renaissance Period Test		/50 pts
7	Hamlet Quiz (short answer)		/30pts
8	The Royal Period Test		/50 pts
9	Tartuffe Quiz (short answer)		/30 pts
10	Realism Test		/50 pts
	Theatrical Review II		/100 pts
11	A Doll's House Quiz (short answer)		/30 pts
12	Anti-Realism Test		/50 pts
13	The Hairy Ape Quiz (short answer)		/30 pts
14	The Post Modern Period		
	FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive)		/100 pts
		Total	/900 pts

Introduction

Hi!

Welcome to *Introduction to the Theatre* for Independent Study in Idaho.

This course is designed to build an appreciation for theatre as an art form through the exploration of the artistic impulse, the people who practice the various crafts in theatre, and the history and literature that is theatre itself. Watching and responding to theatre productions and reading dramatic works is required.

It is important to note that there are **TWO** ways you can take this course:

You may choose to download the Course Guide (a PDF under the “Course Guide Heading”) and work through that more traditional independent study method. OR, you may follow the “Content Links” starting with the “Theatre as Art” section and work progressively downward, on-line, in Canvas. Both have the same learning outcomes and activities.

Regardless of which way you choose to move through this course, I strongly encourage you to review all ISI policies and the respective syllabi (Traditional or On-Line) to familiarize yourself with the requirements for the course. **Pay special attention to the “Course Rules” document in Canvas for instructor contact information and lesson submission rules.** Please do not be shy about emailing me with any questions you may have. I look forward to working with you and, again, welcome!

Introductory Lecture

Read over the *Course Overview* and *Syllabus* documents available in the “Introduction” section of Canvas.

Written Assignment

Use the Introduction Blog on Canvas to introduce yourself to your classmates. Though you should feel free to get creative, there are three required elements to your introduction:

1. Post at least 200 words about yourself.
2. Post at least one image in your blog. It doesn't have to be a photo of yourself, though it could be. Images of art and/or nature are also good.
3. Give the names of your favorite film and favorite website. Include a link to the website, unless it is something like the /b/ boards.

If you are confused about how to create a blog entry or using the text editor, refer to the videos provided on Canvas for this assignment.

Lesson 1

Theatre as Art

Lesson Objectives

- Discuss the Definition of Art
- Discuss the need to create as posed by Howard Gardner’s “Theory of Multiple Intelligences” and David Perkin’s “Model of Creativity”
- Discuss the Definition of Theatre
- Discuss the importance of the audience
- Develop a personal definition of Art

Reading Assignment

Theatre: a Practical Approach, 3rd ed., Chapter 1, ‘Art and the Artist’

Theatre: a Practical Approach, 3rd ed., Chapter 2, ‘Theatre as an Art & Process’

Theatre: a Practical Approach, 3rd ed., Chapter 3, ‘The Audience’

Important Terms

Dialectic	Creativity	Imagination	Culture	Exposition
Denouement	Objectivity	Subjectivity		

Important Concepts

Theory of Multiple Intelligences	Model of Creativity	The Communication Model
The Marxist Dialectic	The Design Model	The Organizational Model
Cohen’s Eight Stage Audience Model		

Introductory Lecture

In this lesson you will be exposed to various ways to examine, understand and define art and the artistic impulse. You will be presented with models on how creativity and imagination inform our understanding of art & culture.

Written Assignment

Before beginning the first written assignment, refer to the *Course Rules* in Canvas for your instructor’s assignment requirements.

Construct a definition of art that uses the term’s **imagination & creativity**. In addition, feel free to include any of the terms that were used in the readings to this point. Your definition should be well thought out and be no less than four (4) complete sentences. It should be no more than one full page. To help you make this definition, list ten things that you consider beautiful. Additionally, those ten things should fit your definition and therefore could be considered art. Include this list of ten things after your definition of art and provide a picture of one of these items. Use care in the crafting of this definition. It should combine not only your philosophy and aesthetic but reflect your views and should articulate your sensibilities and ideas about what art is.

Submit this definition in the appropriate area on Canvas.