I. INTRODUCTION

A. Introduction to Theatre is a survey of theater including its history, dramatic works, stage techniques, production procedures, and relation to other art forms. Participation in productions may be required.

B. This course is a prerequisite for most upper tier Theatre/Drama courses and counts toward fulfillment of the Performing Arts requirement in many performing arts related fields. This course is related to all Theatre Arts occupations and to any liberal arts study field.

C. The course fulfills the Creative Arts section on the Texas Common Core as well as degree requirement. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, this course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork and social responsibility. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for learning.
   • Critical thinking skills include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
   • Communication skills include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual media.
   • Teamwork includes the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
   • Social responsibility includes the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

D. Prerequisite: None

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Demonstrate a basic understanding of theatre history.

B. Discuss theatrical constituents including but not limited to acting, directing, design and management.

C. Examine theatre’s impact & relationship to society.

D. Evaluate various styles & genre of theatre.

E. Illustrate an understanding of effective ensemble (teamwork) skills & understand the importance of teamwork as it relates to short term projects/deadlines.

F. Analyze and contemplate a play in basic design terms.

(C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. **Play Reading (in lieu of a final exam):** Students are required to read a full-length play assigned in class. This play will be a useful example to many of the in-class discussions and demonstrations.

   a. **Play Reading Quiz:** a quiz will be given over the play chosen for class on the assigned date.

B. **Lectures/Reading:** students are expected to attend all lectures and read all assignments provided in class. Note taking is encouraged.

C. **Projects:** all class projects must be completed and turned in on time. Students are expected to bring all necessary materials to class.

   a. As a supplement to daily projects and exercises; rubric, pop quizzes or some other form of direct assessment may be used as part of your class participation grade.

D. **Videos:** a collection of videos concerning various topics will be shown throughout the semester. The student is required to take notes.

   a. **Video Essay:** short essay questions will follow class videos.
E. **Class Participation:** Students are expected to practice the following guidelines to ensure positive class participation:

a. Students are expected to attend every class, be on time, and remain throughout the class.
b. Students are expected to maintain civility, courtesy, and scholastic honesty. Any activity suggestive of scholastic dishonesty will result in a failing grade.
c. Students are expected to participate fully in class discussions and exercises including group efforts.
d. Students will be expected to maintain their work area.

V. **TESTS**

In addition to the lectures, discussions and class exercises, there will be **five** tests over the presented lectures and/or reading assignments. They will be announced in advance. You must obtain and use a Test Answer Sheet (blue test form sold in the campus bookstore with 50 answers on front and back)

VI. **SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90-100=A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Essays</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>80-89=B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Reading Quiz</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>70-79=C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests (5)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60-69=D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59 or below=F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100%

VII. **NOTES & ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

A. **Withdrawal from course:** If a student is unable to continue in the class, it is his/her responsibility to properly withdraw.

B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** Students may be administratively withdrawn from the class when their absences exceed a total of four (4) class meetings in a sixteen week semester. Three times tardy will count as one absence.
C. **Incomplete Grade:** The college catalogue states, “an incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work, but, because of personal illness, death in the family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete all the requirements for the course… It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor…to complete the course and change the “I” grade within the specified time.”

D. **Make-ups:** The student will be present and on time for all presentations, tests & exams. If unusual circumstances or emergencies should occur and you are required to be absent from class on a due date, special arrangements should be made with the instructor.

E. **Topic Approval:** topics chosen by the student for each assignment must be approved by the instructor.

F. **Return of Graded Assignments:** written feedback of video presentations & play reports will not be returned until all students have completed said assignment.

G. **Audience Behavior:** being a good audience member and team player is essential to understanding the nature of theatre. Please do not leave class during lecture or film viewing. Also see “Play Attendance Etiquette” and “Class Ground Rules” below.

H. **Grading:** grading is highly subjective in theatre courses due to the artistic nature. Demonstrating teamwork, ethics (on time, meeting your commitments, etc.) are essential to the process.

I. **Tardy:** Students are expected to arrive on time. If you are tardy check with the instructor at the end of class for missed important announcements. 3 times tardy equal one class absence. Only 4 absences are allowed during a sixteen-week semester.

J. Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

**VIII. PLAY ATTENDANCE ETIQUETTE**
1. No one will be seated after a performance has begun until intermission. If you are late, please plan to stand until you can be seated by an usher without disturbing the other theatre patrons.
2. Currently, CTC tries to provide child care services during the performances but it is not always guaranteed. Please take this into consideration when planning your evening. Infants and young children are not appropriate audience members for CTC’s stage productions and create disturbance for other theatre patrons.
3. NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE AT ANY TIME!
4. Do NOT leave during a performance unless it is absolutely necessary.
5. Please refrain from loud talking during the performance.
6. Please turn off all cell phones, pager, & other devices.

IX. CLASSROOM GROUND RULES

1. All discussions of your grade including assignments, attendance, tardiness, etc. should take place during office hours.
2. Please turn off all cell phones & other devices.
3. Please do not leave the room during class. Although we are in an auditorium, proper classroom practices will be the student’s responsibility.
4. NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE IN CLASS!
5. READ YOUR SYLLABUS! This is the first item I turn to when I am trying to help you with the class.
6. The classroom is an inappropriate place for children.

X. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Lesson One: Design, Production and Construction
   1. Learning Outcome: Upon successful completion of this unit the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of theatrical production and its many facets.
   2. Learning Activities:
      a. Instructor lecture & demonstration
      b. Class discussion
      c. Handouts
      d. Group discussion/exercise

         (C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

   3. Equipment & Materials:
      as needed

   4. Audio Visual Aids:
      as needed

   5. Lesson Outline:
a. Introduction
b. Exploration of design and construction
c. Safety
d. Build practicum

B. Lesson Two: Audience, Dramatic Genres, Greeks & Romans & formalized Theatre

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the audience’s role and dramatic texts. Greek and Roman theatre will be explored as well. The student will also demonstrate a practical knowledge of theatrical building and running of a show.

2. Learning Activities:
   a. Instructor lecture & demonstration
   b. Class discussion
   c. Class exercises
   d. Group discussion/exercise

   (C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

3. Equipment & Materials: 
   as needed

4. Audio Visual Aids: 
   as needed

5. Lesson Outline:
   a. Purpose and input of the audience, aesthetic distance
   b. Introduction to narrative structure and types of plays
   c. A brief history of the Greeks and Roman

C. Lesson Three: The major theatrical players & history of Renaissance, Modern and Asian Theatre

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit the learner will be able to identify various roles of theatrical production and the major influence of Renaissance, Modern and Asian theatre.

2. Learning Activities:
a. Instructor lecture  
b. Class discussion  
c. Class exercises  
d. Group discussion/exercise  

(C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)  

3. Equipment & materials  
   as needed  

4. Audio-Visuels  
   as needed  

5. Lesson Outline:  

   a. Renaissance Theatre  
   b. Stage Performers  
   c. The Playwright  
   d. The Director & Producer  
   e. Modern Theatre  
   f. Asian & Medieval Theatre