I. INTRODUCTION

A. History of Theatre I is an introduction to the fundamental concepts, ideas and cultural significance theatre has played in history up to the Renaissance.

B. The course fulfills the Language, Philosophy and Cultural requirement at Central Texas College and is a recommended elective. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, this course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, personal and social responsibility. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for learning.

C. This course is a prerequisite for most upper level 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.

D. Prerequisite: None

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Analyze the history of theater through written responses to historic texts, artifacts, and performance practices.

B. Identify essential terminology related to the history of theater.

C. Evaluate current productions of historical plays through an understanding of their original production conditions.

D. Evaluate the interaction between theater and society.
III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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

B. Supplemental play text(s) as required by instructor and announced in class.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading: students are responsible for weekly reading assignments in preparation for class discussion, essays and quizzes.

B. Lectures: students are expected to take note during lectures. Lectures will echo and supplement assigned reading.

C. Quizzes: administered throughout the semester covering topics in reading and lectures.

D. Midterm: In addition to the lectures, discussions and class exercises, there will be a midterm exam over the reading and lectures. It will be announced in advance.

E. Final: will be administered on the scheduled day and time as published in the schedule bulletin unless noted otherwise.

F. Videos: From time to time videos concerning various topics will be shown or assigned throughout the semester. The student is responsible for the material and required to take notes.

G. 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.
   
   d. Students will be expected to maintain their work area.
VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading/Lecture Essays</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>90-100=A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>80-89=B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70-79=C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60-69=D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>59 or below=F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 absentees 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 the instructor turns to when trying to help you with the class.
6. The classroom is an inappropriate place for children.

X. **COURSE OUTLINE**
General Learning Activities:

- Instructor lecture & demonstration
- Class discussion
- Reading assignments
- Critical analysis

(1) Unit One: Ritual and origins of theatre around the world & ancient Greece.

(a) **Learning Outcome:** Analyze the history of theater through written responses to historic texts, artifacts, and performance practices. Identify essential terminology related to the history of theater from Ancient Greece. Evaluate current productions of historical plays through an understanding of their original production conditions. Evaluate the interaction between theater and society.

(b) **Activities:**
   (i) Lecture & Discussion
   (ii) Reading
   (iii) Critical analysis
   (iv) Quiz
   (v) Exam

(c) **Outline:**
   (i) Origins of theatre
   (ii) Ritual
   (iii) Greek theatre as socio-political commentary
   (iv) Aristotle
   (v) Greek playwrights

(2) Unit Two: Roman theatre and theatre of the Middle Ages

(a) **Learning Outcome:** Analyze the history of theater through written responses to historic texts, artifacts, and performance practices. Identify essential terminology related to the history of theatre from the Roman period and Middle Ages. Evaluate current productions of historical plays through an understanding of their original production conditions. Evaluate the interaction between theater and society.

(b) **Activities:**
   (i) Lecture & Discussion
   (ii) Reading
   (iii) Critical analysis
   (iv) Quiz
   (v) Exam
   (vi) Critical analysis

(c) **Outline:**
   (i) Rome: culture, politics, and society
   (ii) Theatre architecture
(iii) Roman playwrights
(iv) Roman criticism
(v) Middle Ages
(vi) Theatrical stages, morality play and liturgical drama

(3) Unit Three: The Renaissance: Italy, England, Spain and France
(a) Learning Outcomes: Analyze the history of theater through written responses to historic texts, artifacts, and performance practices. Identify essential terminology related to the history of theatre during the Renaissance. Evaluate current productions of historical plays through an understanding of their original production conditions. Evaluate the interaction between theater and society.
(b) Activities:
   (i) Lecture & Discussion
   (ii) Reading
   (iii) Critical analysis
   (iv) Quiz
   (v) Exam
   (vi) Critical analysis

(c) Outline:
   (i) Italy
   (ii) England
   (iii) Spain
   (iv) France