Subject: Theatre
Course Number: 110
Section Number: 10549
Name of Class: Understanding Theatre
Instructor: Paul Wickline
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Semester: Summer 2014
Class Starting Date: June 16
Class Ending Date: July 25

Class Description: This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the theatre and its major components. Students will study the elements of theatre and explore the theatrical event from the audience perspective. Through class activities, assignments and projects, students will gain a variety of experiences from that of audience, designer, performer and playwright. Students will also have the opportunity to gain an understanding of theatre’s historical development through group projects that include play reading and discussion and presentations. This course satisfies transfer requirements for the UC, CSU systems.

Textbook and Access code information, including costs: TWO textbooks are needed. 1. Think Theatre by Mira Felner (Pearson Publishing) ISBN# 0-205-86959-9. 2. Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller. Both are available at the COC Bookstore or through online sellers.

Other Course Materials Required: Students will be required to see ONE pre-approved theatrical performance by a college or professional theatre. Community theatre performances will not be allowed. Please plan accordingly. This will cost between $25~$100 depending on which performance you choose to attend. You will be required to scan or photograph a picture of both your TICKET and PROGRAM and submit this with your critique.

Initial instructions for beginning of class: Student ABSOLUTELY must sign in by the first day of the class and complete the activities within the “START HERE” folder. These include an initial discussion board posting, a “pre-test” and a survey. Students failing to sign in and complete these activities by the deadline will be dropped from the class on Tuesday. And, again, PLEASE purchase the TEXTBOOK (Felner) BEFORE the class begins. I can’t wait for you. We only have 5 weeks to accomplish a semester’s worth of work.

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): All quizzes and tests will be taken within the Blackboard shell. Students will not need to visit the campus to complete these.

Course Management System Information: The student must have regular access to a computer, the internet, and use their COC email address. Your assignments and papers will be submitted using the assignment function in Blackboard. If you are having trouble with Blackboard, you may find assistance at the Distance Learning page at College of the Canyons. PLEASE do not attempt to complete this course using only your smart phone, or even a tablet (Ipad). While these may work for some activities, plan to have access to a computer. There are MANY computer labs on the COC campus, including in the new TLC center. You should have ready access to current word document creating software (Microsoft Word preferred as Works, Notepad, and Corel Word Perfect almost always cause problems). You need to be familiar with saving and opening PDF files. For PDF files, you should have a version of Adobe Acrobat
Reader installed on your computer. This is free and can be found at http://get.adobe.com/reader/. You will need an up-to-date version of an internet browser (Google CHROME or Firefox preferred. Internet Explorer is iffy...AOLs browser always causes problems). You need to be computer literate, well-skilled in basic document creation and handling. At the very least, you should know how to cut and paste and copy from one document to another and how to attach documents to emails. Also, you should know how to set page margins in Microsoft Word, so that I can ensure fairness in determining whether your critiques meet minimum word and page requirements. This is a theatre course, not a computer skills course. If there are technical skills that you need assistance with, you may visit COCs Online Learning website at http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/online/ for some tutorials.

Student Learning Outcomes: Appraise and critique a theatrical or dramatic entertainment through an examination of production elements such as the script, direction, acting, costumes, scenery, properties, music, choreography, lighting and sound.

Useful Links:

Other: Purchase the textbook BEFORE the start of class. It is ESSENTIAL you have the TEXTBOOK by the beginning of the first week of classes or you will be unable to adequately participate in the course activities. The play can be purchased after the course begins. “Attendance/Participation” and other Important Information: You should log onto our class Blackboard site every week day to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in message board and email exchanges. If you will not be able to participate in this manner, this is not the course for you. Any student who fails to log in to the class website AND PARTICIPATE in class activities for one consecutive week will be dropped from the class for non-attendance. Discussion board posts and assignments are considered attendance for the class. Success in this course relies upon your commitment to do the coursework independently.

DSPS Information: If you have a learning, attention, or physical disability that may require classroom or test accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please register with Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS). The DSPS office is located in Seco Hall room 103. Call them at (661)362-3341. Verification from DSPS is required before any classroom or testing accommodation can be made.