Subject: Theatre  
Course Number: 110  
Section Number: 15084  
Name of Class: Understanding Theatre  
Instructor: Paul Wickline  
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Semester: Winter 2015  
Class Starting Date: January 5  
Class Ending Date: February 7

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 a variety of 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: Think Theatre, Mira Felner. Cost ranges from Rental ($33.70), Used if available ($51.60) to New ($68.80).

Other Course Materials Required: Play Attendance: As this class is designed to introduce you to theatre, your most valuable educational experiences will be theatre attendance. You are required to see ONE theatrical production this session. If you do not see at least ONE performance and complete an acceptable play critique for each, you will receive a failing grade for this class. More information concerning this and other course requirements and activities will be available in the syllabus on Blackboard. Students should plan to spend between $5 and $100 to see these productions depending upon the theatres the student chooses to attend. Every effort will be made to provide students will access to inexpensive theatre productions.

Initial instructions for beginning of class: This course will be available on COC's Blackboard system NO LATER than 8:00 AM Monday, January 5. Instructions for logging in to Blackboard are located on the Login Directions. You can and will be dropped from the class if you do not log in to Blackboard, and complete MODULE01 by Monday,1/5/15 before 11:59 pm. No exceptions will be made.

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): All of our work occurs online. You will not be required to come to the campus to take exams. I will evaluate your performance on open-book tests, discussion board posts/conversations, assignments, and virtual group work based on specific instructions. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, ONE play critique, and a project due as major assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to complete 1-3 discussion boards a week, reading quizzes, and assignments. Any student who does not complete all of the major assignments and the required number of message board postings will likely fail the course.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the student should be able to 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.
Course Management System Information: The student must have regular access to a computer, the internet, and have an 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. Required Computer Literacy: You should have ready access to current word document creating software (Microsoft Word preferred -- 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 (Internet Explorer preferred. 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.

Useful Links: http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distancelearning/Pages/default.aspx

Other: Purchase the textbook. 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 plays 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 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. If you are a student who needs considerable "hands-on guidance" and face to face interaction to enjoy and succeed in a class, you may want to take the on ground version. To succeed and benefit from this course, you need to be self-reliant, motivated, disciplined and focused. This is not a "learn at your own pace" course. This class will require regular participation in online discussion boards, and in individual and group activities. I hope you are not taking this class because you don't have time in your schedule to take a "real class." The online version of Understanding Theatre will require the same time commitment as the "on ground" version, except the time of day that you complete your work is more flexible when you take an online class. The course is "asynchronous" which means that you can log in at a time of day convenient to you. However, this is not a class where you can complete work far ahead of your classmates or make up work during the last weeks of the term. Regular participation several times a week is expected.

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.