

**Raritan Valley Community College  
Academic Course Outline**

**THEA-103 INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: THEA-103 Introduction to Theatre
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2016
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2017**
- E. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3  
Laboratory: 0  
Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites: None
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. VAPA Chair: Dennis Russo, Co-Chair, Performing Arts,  
(908) 526-1200 x8391, Dennis.Russo@raritanval.edu

**II. Catalog Description**

This course introduces students to the development and collaborative nature of Western and non-Western theatre. Students will examine, from historical, stylistic and cultural perspectives, how the roles and contributions of the playwright, actor, director, designer, and audience integrate to form the complete theatre experience.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. As the study of a significant performing art, this course introduces an overview of the history of theatre in both Western and non-Western traditions, the occupations involved in this art, and its diversity of genres. Similar courses are offered in many two-year and most four-year colleges.
- B. This course generally transfers as a Theatre program requirement, or as a General Education course in the Humanities/Appreciation of the Arts.

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/Appreciation of the Arts.
- C. This course is a program requirement for the Theatre Arts, A.A. in Liberal Arts.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. History of the theatre
- B. Occupations of the theatre
- C. The genres of theatre
  - 1. Tragedy
  - 2. Comedy
  - 3. Farce
  - 4. Tragi-comedy
  - 5. Melodrama
  - 6. Dark comedy
  - 7. Black comedy
- D. The art of the actor
- E. The art of the stage director
- F. The art of the designer
- G. The art of the playwright
- H. Script analysis
- I. Introduction to World Theater
- J. The American Musical
- K. Attendance at a live theatrical performance
- L. Current trends of today's theatre

#### **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

##### **At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate both orally and in writing a comprehensive knowledge and critical aesthetic appreciation of the historical, stylistic and cultural development of the traditions and significance of the Theatre experience in Western and non-Western cultures.  
(GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, \*)
2. Use general and/or discipline specific information sources to better identify, determine and apply research or information need. (GE-NJ IL)

## **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

### **At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Illustrate the genres of the theatre, referring to significant playwrights and significant stage works.
2. Classify and describe the stylistic characteristics of various performance styles.
3. Describe the contributions and collaborations of the various creative occupations within the theatre.
4. Evaluate and critique a theatrical presentation and/or performance.

(\* embedded critical thinking)

## **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. Selected readings/written assignments (research and/or evaluations)
2. Discussions/critiques
3. Research project/student oral presentation (required)

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Examinations
- B. Classroom participation (and attendance) in all projects, discussions and critiques (required)
- C. Completion of all written assignments (required)
- D. Research project/oral presentation (required)

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning are:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Small-group work
- C. Student oral presentations
- D. Reading and written assignments

## **VIII. Texts and Materials**

**Text:** (such as) Cohen, Robert. *Theatre Brief Version*.  
(latest edition, Mayfield Publishing, Mountain View, CA.)

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **IX. Resources**

- A. Classroom equipped with media/projection systems
- B. Library of video and DVD performances
- C. Library of plays/scripts