I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: THEA-108 History of the Theatre: Modern

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2016

D. Effective Term: Fall 2016

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, drusso@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

This course continues with the study of the traditions of Western theatre from the
beginning of the eighteenth century through contemporary times. The course will
emphasize the theatre’s historical, stylistic and cultural perspectives, with
emphasis on what significant developments led to the genres of the modern
theatre. Students may be required to attend a live performance.

III. Statement of Course Need:

A. Theatre History is a core requirement in most theatre programs. The majority
   of four year schools require theatre majors to take two semesters of theatre
   history.
B. This course generally transfers as an equivalent Theatre History course, 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 meets a program requirement for the Theatre Arts, A.A. Liberal Arts.
D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Review of Restoration period.
B. Introduction to Nineteenth Century Drama:
   Romanticism, Melodrama, and the Well-Made Play. Students will read and discuss a play such as Woyzeck (Buchner).
C. Ibsen, Strindberg, and Realism:
   The class will read and discuss plays by the prominent realist playwrights Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg. Plays such as A Doll’s House and Miss Julie will be read and discussed.
D. Chekhov and the Moscow Art Theater:
   The class will read and discuss plays written by Chekhov such as The Sea Gull and The Cherry Orchard. The class will also read about and discuss Constantine Stanislavski and realistic acting.
E. Epic Theatre:
   The class will read and discuss plays such as Galileo by Bertolt Brecht.
F. The American Scene:
   The class will read and discuss plays such as Anna Christie (O’Neill), A Streetcar Named Desire (Williams), and Death of a Salesman (Miller).
   The Group Theatre and The Actors Studio will also be covered.
G. The Theatre of the Absurd:
   The class will read plays such as Waiting for Godot (Beckett) or The Dumbwaiter (Pinter).
H. Theatre of the 1960’s and 1970’s in both Europe and the United States.
I. Theatre today:
   The class may read plays by Shepard, Wilson, Albee, Norman, Vogel or Mamet.

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 Western Theatre experience. (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. Compare and contrast specific significant plays and playwrights throughout the historic periods studied.
2. Classify and evaluate the stylistic characteristics involved in the evolution of theatre styles and genres.
3. Relate historical information to the aesthetic evaluation of contemporary theatre.

(* 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)

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

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)

VIII. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as) Living Theatre: A History by Wilson and Goldfarb
Anthology of plays: (such as) The Longman Anthology of Drama
(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