

## THEA 151 Proposal

1. What course does the department plan to offer in Explorations? Which subcategory are you proposing for this course? (Arts and Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Natural and Physical Sciences)

Course: THEA 151: Theatre Appreciation

Subcategory: Arts and Humanities

2. How will this course meet the specific learning objectives of the appropriate subcategory? Please address **all** of the learning outcomes listed for the appropriate subcategory.

**Learning Objective 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to utilize basic formal elements, techniques, concepts and vocabulary of specific disciplines within the Arts and Humanities.** Students will use appropriate vocabulary for the description and critical analysis of dramatic and theatrical works. They will also explore the major elements, approaches and terminology used in contemporary theatrical practice.

**Learning Objective 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to distinguish between various kinds of evidence by identifying reliable sources and valid arguments.** Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze dramatic literature on the page and/or in performance for theme, genre, and dramatic structure, as well as to evaluate the appropriateness and artistic validity of production choices made by theatre artists in various cultural, political, aesthetic and social contexts.

**Learning Objective 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to demonstrate how social, cultural, and historical contexts influence creative expression in the arts and humanities.** Students will analyze how social, cultural and historical contexts have influenced theatrical literature, practices and performance in various cultures and time periods.

**Learning Objective 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate the significance of human expression and experience in shaping larger social, cultural and historical contexts.** Students will explore how theatre and theatre artists have challenged, supported or shaped social values, political systems and aesthetic practices in various cultures and time periods.

**Learning Objective 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate enduring and contemporary issues of human experience.** Students will identify common themes, ideas and artistic approaches in theatre from a range of periods and cultures, and will examine how these issues as well as newer concerns are currently being addressed by attending and analyzing live theatrical performances.

3. Syllabus statement of learning outcomes for course. NOTE: In multi-section courses, the same statement of learning outcomes must appear on every section's syllabus.

- 1) Students will use appropriate vocabulary for the description and critical analysis of dramatic and theatrical works. They will also be able to identify the major elements, approaches and terminology used in contemporary theatrical practice.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze dramatic literature on the page and/or in performance for theme, genre, and dramatic structure, as well as to evaluate the appropriateness and artistic validity of production choices made by theatre artists in various cultural, political, aesthetic and social contexts.
- 3) Students will analyze how social, cultural and historical contexts have influenced theatrical literature, practices and performance in various cultures and time periods.
- 4) Students will explore how theatre and theatre artists have challenged, supported or shaped social values, political systems and aesthetic practices in various cultures and time periods.
- 5) Students will identify common themes, ideas and artistic approaches in theatre from a range of periods and cultures, and will examine how these issues as well as newer concerns are currently being addressed by attending and analyzing live theatrical performances.

**4. Brief description of how the department will assess the course for these learning objectives.**

The department will develop a pool of multiple choice questions addressing each of the five learning objectives. Professors will select a question for each outcome to include on their exams. We will randomly select exam answers from each section and compile statistics on the number of correct answers in each category to give to the department head. Based on these statistics, we will make any necessary adjustments to course content and teaching approaches.

**5. How many sections of this course will your department offer each semester?**

We plan to offer 13-15 sections of Theatre Appreciation each semester, along with an additional 1-3 sections during Winter/Summer terms.

**6. Please attach sample syllabus for the course.**

Please send your proposal to: [robert.dietle@wku.edu](mailto:robert.dietle@wku.edu)

## THEA 151: Theatre Appreciation Sample Syllabus

THEA 151 – MWF 9:10-10:05

Professor Carol Jordan

[carol.jordan@wku.edu](mailto:carol.jordan@wku.edu)

Office: GWH 309

Office Hours: M – 2:00-3:00

T – 10:00-12:00

### Course Objectives:

- 1) Students will use appropriate vocabulary for the description and critical analysis of dramatic and theatrical works. They will also be able to identify the major elements, approaches and terminology used in contemporary theatrical practice.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze dramatic literature on the page and/or in performance for theme, genre, and dramatic structure, as well as to evaluate the appropriateness and artistic validity of production choices made by theatre artists in various cultural, political, aesthetic and social contexts.
- 3) Students will analyze how social, cultural and historical contexts have influenced theatrical literature, practices and performance in various cultures and time periods.
- 4) Students will explore how theatre and theatre artists have challenged, supported or shaped social values, political systems and aesthetic practices in various cultures and time periods.
- 5) Students will identify common themes, ideas and artistic approaches in theatre from a range of periods and cultures, and will examine how these issues as well as newer concerns are currently being addressed by attending and analyzing live theatrical performances.

**Course Materials and Play Attendance:** You will be required to read the following plays as part of this course: *Oedipus the King (Oedipus Rex)* by Sophocles, *The Little Clay Cart (The Toy Cart)* by King Shudraka, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco, and *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang. These are available in the bookstore and all but the final two are also available free on-line. There will also be some shorter readings posted on Blackboard. You will also be required to attend WKU's fall productions of *Les Liasons Dangereuses* (Sept. 27-Oct. 2) and *Urinetown* (Nov. 8-13).

**Grading:** For this class, there will be multiple quizzes, a mid-term, and a final. You will also be required to write detailed production reviews of *Les Liasons Dangereuses* and *Urinetown*, as well as an acting, directing, or design analysis of one of the plays that you'll be reading this semester. The *Liasons* review will count as half of your mid-term and the acting/directing/design analysis will count as half of your final. I will drop the lowest quiz grade from your final average. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Mid-Term:	30%
Final:	35%
<i>Urinetown</i> Review:	10%
Quizzes:	25%

**Missed Assignments and Absences:** You are expected to be in class on time on the days that quizzes or exams are given. **Make-ups will only be given in cases of serious emergencies (with a note).** If you arrive late to class after a quiz has been given you will not be allowed to make it up. The production review for *Liasons* is due Mon., Oct. 8, the day of your mid-term, the *Urinetown* review is due Fri., Nov. 16, and the acting/directing/design analysis is due Thurs., Dec. 13, the day of your final exam. **I will not accept any of the writing assignments late.** If you are absent from class, it will be your responsibility to get the notes and information you missed from someone else in the class. **There is no textbook for the class and power-point presentations will not be posted on Blackboard.**

**Extra Credit:** You may receive extra credit on your mid-term and final by attending additional theatrical productions. You will receive 5 extra credit points for each show attended (up to ten points total on each exam). To get the extra credit, you must bring the ticket stub(s) from the show(s) with you on the day of the exam. Shows you may attend to receive extra credit include any of the WKU Children's Theatre Series Shows, Winterdance (Nov. 30-Dec. 2) or local productions produced by The Public Theatre of Kentucky, Kentucky Repertory Theatre, Fountain Square Players and SKyPAC. Box office information and links to each theatre's website can be found on Blackboard.

**Academic Integrity:** Copying or using the words or ideas of others without proper citation is plagiarism. This includes copying from your fellow students or paraphrasing information that you find on-line. Any assignment found to be plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a grade of zero. If you use plagiarized material in more than one assignment, you will fail the course.

**Office Hours:** My office is 309 Gordon Wilson Hall and my official office hours will be Mondays from 2:00-3:00 and Tuesdays from 10:00-12:00. If these times are not convenient, please contact me to work out an alternative. Also, please feel free to e-mail me at any time if you have questions or concerns about the class.

**Special Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Student Success Center, DUC A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Syllabus (be aware that I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus during the semester if needed):**

Mon., Aug. 27 – Introduction/The Production Team  
Wed., Aug. 29 – Theatre Terminology and Theatre Spaces  
Fri., Aug. 31 – The Playwright and Play Construction

Wed., Sept. 5 – Dramatic Structure

Fri., Sept. 7 – The Role of the Director

Mon., Sept. 10 – **Quiz #1**, Developing a Directing Concept

Wed., Sept. 12 – The Role of Actors

Fri., Sept. 14 – Analyzing a Character

Mon., Sept. 17 – Staging a Scene

Wed., Sept. 19 – Designers and the Design Process

Fri., Sept. 21 – Set Design

Mon., Sept. 24 – Costume and Make-Up Design

Wed., Sept. 26 – **Quiz #2**, Lighting and Sound Design, Homework: Read *Hamlet* Act 3, Sc. 1 (on Blackboard)

Fri., Sept. 28 – Different Approaches to a Scene

Mon., Oct. 1 – Critiquing a Dramatic Performance

Wed., Oct. 3 – Mid-Term Review

Mon., Oct. 8 – **Mid-Term, *Les Liasons Dangereuses* play reviews due**

Wed., Oct. 10 – Discussion of *Les Liasons Dangereuses*

Fri., Oct. 12 – Introduction to Ancient Greek Theatre

Mon., Oct. 15 – Ancient Greek Staging, Homework: Read *Oedipus the King*

Wed., Oct. 17 – **Quiz #3**, *Oedipus the King*

Fri., Oct. 19 – Introduction to Sanskrit Theatre

Mon., Oct. 22 – Sanskrit Staging, Homework: Read *The Little Clay Cart*

Wed., Oct. 24 – **Quiz #4**, *The Little Clay Cart*

Fri., Oct. 26 – Introduction to Improvisational Theatre and Commedia dell'Arte

Mon., Oct. 29 – Commedia Staging, Homework: Read *The Dentist* (on Blackboard)

Wed., Oct. 31 – **Quiz #5**, *The Dentist*

Fri., Nov. 2 – Introduction to Elizabethan Theatre

Mon., Nov. 5 – Elizabethan Staging, Homework: Read *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Wed., Nov. 7 – **Quiz #6**, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Fri., Nov. 9 – Introduction to Realism & Naturalism

Mon., Nov. 12 – Realistic Staging and Acting, Homework: Read *A Doll's House*

Wed., Nov. 14 – **Quiz #7**, *A Doll's House*

Fri., Nov. 16 – ***Urinetown* Reviews Due**, *Urinetown* Discussion

Mon., Nov. 19 – Reactions against Realism

Mon., Nov. 26 – Modernism and Theatre of the Absurd, Homework: Read *The Bald Soprano*

Wed., Nov. 28 – **Quiz #8**, *The Bald Soprano*

Fri., Nov. 30 – American Theatre

Mon., Dec. 3 – Post-Modernism and Contemporary Theatre, Homework: Read *M.*

*Butterfly*

Wed., Dec. 5 – **Quiz #9**, *M. Butterfly*

Fri., Dec. 7 – Review for Final

Thurs., Dec. 13 – **Final from 1:00-3:00 pm, Acting/Directing/Design Analysis Due**