Course Description

Analyzes and studies theatre history to include architecture, performers and performance, playwrights, stage, production methods, and audience from the Greeks through modern drama. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide the student with a survey of the development of theatres and stages and major trends in play production from ancient tribal ritual to the present.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Ability to read required text and to submit written assignments.

Course Objectives

SPD 231 will survey the Greeks through Ibsen and continue through Modern drama including musical theatre.

Upon completion of SPD 231 students should be able to:

- Understand the styles of playwriting, dramatic production, and theatre
- Describe the architecture characteristic of major periods of theatre history.
- Analyze the relationship of theatre's history to cultural and societal influences.
- Differentiate among the important periods of theater history and the contributions of playwrights from the Greek Theater to the 21st century.
- Appreciate and understand the dramatic literature, staging, directing and acting of each period of history.
- Follow the emergence of the drama, the actor, and the director, and see the role each has played in molding and reflecting society.
- Appreciate and understand the artistic elements of costumes, staging and lighting and how each has developed.

SPD 232 will address various historical periods and/or issues in greater depth and detail.

In addition to the SPD 231 requirements, upon completion of SPD 232, students should be able to:

- Construct their rational main arguments, positions, or points of view related to theatre history
- Support their positions by using primary and secondary source material, in the form of written papers / presentations / web sites, etc.

Major Topics to be Covered

All topics will be covered in both SPD 231 and SPD 232. Topics are introduced in SPD 231 and covered in greater depth in SPD 232.

a. Primitive tribal ritual
b. Greek and Roman theatre
c. Medieval drama
d. Renaissance theatre in Italy
e. Theatre in Spain, Medieval and Renaissance
f. Elizabethan English Theatre
g. French theatre: Medieval through 17th century
h. Restoration and 18th century English theatre
i. German theatre 1500-1800
j. 18th century theatre in France and America
k. Modern theatre