

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
CST 231-232 - HISTORY OF THE THEATRE I-II (3 CR.) (3 CR.)**

**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