

**Catalogue Description** TH 107, Introduction to Theatre, provides an overview of the basic elements of the theatre arts and dramatic structure, and the environment for production of plays. Attendance at assigned outside events is required.

**Course Description** TH 107 (Introduction to Theatre) provides an introduction to the basic elements of theatre and the dramatic structure as well as the necessary environment for the production of plays. Through the study of theatre’s historical development and key production elements, the student will see the ways in which theatre reflects the progress of the human and artistic condition and will explore the techniques by which the artistry of theatre is created for audiences’ entertainment and enrichment.

**Required Texts:** TH 107 Coursepack “Plays for Intro to Theatre”, available for order from the University Bookstore

AND Cohen, Robert. *Theatre: Brief Version-7<sup>th</sup>* edition. New York: McGraw –Hill, 2004.  
 Cohen, Robert and Lorna. *Enjoying the Play* (included with text).

**Course Objectives:**

- Students will identify key elements of theatre production and dramatic structure, understanding the elements, organizational principles, expressive qualities and sensory qualities of theatre, as well as the artistic process of creating, developing and responding to theatre
- Students will identify basic historical theatrical traditions and developments and understand the historical development of Western theatrical performance and production.
- Students will analyze how theatre shapes and reflects ideas, issues of themes in a variety of cultures
- Students will use understand the purpose and function of critical response to theatre, develop critical thinking and analytical thought to critique dramatic literature and productions
- Students will recognize the characteristics of some non Western traditions of theatre from an historical perspective
  
- Students will understands theatre as a collaborative process
- Students will understands the connection of theatre to the other arts
- Students will understand the connection of theatre to other subject areas

**Assessments:**

Students will develop a number of different **creative projects**, using methods of theatrical arts, including a costume design, a set rendering, an original skit and a performance piece.

Students will take **regular quizzes and tests** which will assess their understanding of the major periods of Western theatre development from Greeks to the Absurdism

**Response papers** to play readings

Students will write a **critical response paper** to a live theatre performance of their choosing,

Students will present an **oral report** on a topic in non Western Theatre

**Quizzes and critical response paper**

**Creative projects** and critical response paper

Performance project and response papers

## Course Requirements

*Read all plays and comments in the coursepack*

*Read all chapters as assigned in textbook*

*Attend all classes (see attendance policy)*

*Creative projects:*

*Costume /Set Design for Dr Faustus or Antigone*

*An original group performance project*

*Sketch comedy scene in proper format*

*(This constitutes 30% of your final grade)*

*A critical response paper regarding a live theatre performance*

*(The critical paper and theatre attendance constitutes 10% of your final grade)*

*Three short, reflective papers on topics having to do with the plays we read*

*(Papers constitute 15% of your grade)*

*An oral report/group activity on a non Western/non traditional theatre topic*

*(The oral report constitutes 15% of your grade)*

*Take regular quizzes and examinations on chapters in your texts, readings, lectures*

*(The quizzes and exams constitute 30% of your final grade)*

## Students With Disabilities

If you have a disability that may prevent you from meeting course requirements, contact the instructor immediately to file a Student Disability Statement and to develop an Accommodation Plan. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations will be developed to help you meet the requirements. You are expected to work with the instructor and the CWU Disability Support Specialist to develop and implement a reasonable Accommodation Plan.

## Grading Scale

**90-100=A      80-89=B      70-79=C      60-69=D      Below 59 is unacceptable**

## Attendance Policy:

You must attend and participate in all class meetings.

You are allowed TWO unexcused absences, but it may only be taken on days when there are no collaborative performance projects due. (Additional unexcused absences will result in a 5% drop in your grade. An unexcused absence on the day of a collaborative performance project will result in a 10% grade drop, no exceptions, whether there have been any other absences or not).

If you are LATE, you will be counted absent. (If you have class immediately prior to this course, please inform the instructor immediately.)

If you have an excused absence due to illness, emergency, or required CWU business, please notify the instructor **AND ANY OR ALL PROJECT PARTNERS/CLASSMATES** prior to the day to be missed.

When you are absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get information covered during your absence from another student.

Late assignments will be accepted (and/or tests made up) *only* in case of emergency or if you made prior arrangements with the instructor AND with project partners/classmates.

## Theatre Arts Mission Statements

*University Mission;*

*“Docendo Discimus” (By Teaching We Learn)*

*Department Mission;*

The Department of Theatre Arts is an ensemble of artists, scholars, educators, and practitioners located in the heart of the Pacific Northwest who:

- prepare students for advanced study and professional careers in theatre;
- promote creativity and excellence in a diverse educational environment;
- cultivate, educate, challenge and enrich audiences; and
- train and prepare students from diverse backgrounds to link art and life through experiential learning; in order to nurture skilled, thoughtful, and courageous citizens who will promote a peaceful and tolerant global community

*Center for Teaching and Learning Theme; “facilitators of learning in a diverse world”*

**Teaching Philosophy:**

The Theatre Arts Department supports and practices constructivism as a teaching philosophy. Indeed, it may be argued that it has used this philosophy in almost all of the diverse areas within the discipline since the art of theatre was created by human beings. Teachers of Theatre Arts practice tenets from the three forms of constructivism exhaustively covered in the Conceptual Framework; Developmental, Social, and Socio-cultural. As a result, we apply the views commonly and generally held by constructivist teachers;

- Learning opportunities are best when accompanied by high levels of active engagement with tasks that characterize them.
- Formal knowledge is valued and made available to the learner, but the learner is encouraged to reflect on it and be skeptical about it, rather than simply accept it.
- Multiple examples and a variety of representations of content enable learners to derive meaning.
- Critical thinking, reflection, and problem solving are prized and encouraged.
- Interaction and conversation with others in the learning environment can improve the learner's ability to state her case, can widen perspective, and can motivate learning.
- Multiple and authentic measures of assessment provide richer insight into the learner's construction of knowledge.
- Verbal explanations can and should be supplemented by experiential learning.

It should be noted that each teacher applies these precepts in diverse ways, according to their particular area within the discipline.

**TH 107 Introduction to Theatre is a CORE REQUIREMENT for Teaching Secondary or Grades k-12 Theatre Arts Majors**