

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 1996

Type of Action:

☒ New  
☐ Modification  
☐ Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: DR 101

Course Title: Introduction to Drama and Theater

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling course, or other pertinent comment:

DR 101 is being initiated to provide the theoretical, technical, and historical framework for the already established DR 202 Acting course, and for NMC's theatrical performances. This is a basic-level course offered by most colleges and universities.

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C. Treiber / B. Main 07-10-96

Proposer Date

B. Main 07-10-96

Department Chair Date

Lee Bogut 7/11/96

Unit Review (Dean) Date

B. Main 07-11-96

English and Format Reviewer Date

B. Main 07-06-96

Academic Council Chair Date

A. H. 19/13/96

Academic Vice President Date

Alger M. 9-16-96

President Date

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## Course Guide

Course : DR 101 Introduction to Drama and Theater

**1. Department:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**2. Purpose:**

DR 101 provides an overview of theater and dramatic literature as an art form with varying expressions throughout time and cultures. It is the appropriate complement for students interested in the art of acting and for those students who are not actors but wish to learn more about dramatic literature, and about the design and technical aspects of theater. NMC's theatrical productions will benefit from the development of an informed audience as well as from the training of knowledgeable backstage and design support. This course, when offered on an experimental basis in Fall 1994, was enthusiastically received by the students.

The primary target population for this course consists of students pursuing the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, as it satisfies the General Education fine arts requirement for the General, Elementary Education, and Special Education degree emphases in Liberal Arts.

DR 101 is being proposed for articulation with a similar course by agreement with the University of Guam.

**3. Description:**

**A. Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials:**

Huberman, Jeffrey H. et al. 1993. *The Theatrical Imagination*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. Readability Level: Grade 13.

Recommended references for instructors:

- (1) Brandon, James R., ed. 1993. *The Cambridge Guide to Asian Theatre*. Cambridge University Press.
- (2) Brockett, Oscar G. 1991. *History of the Theatre*, 6th ed. Allyn and Bacon.
- (3) Corson, Richard. 1990. *Stage Makeup*, 8th ed. Prentice Hall.
- (4) Ingham, Rosemary and Liz Covey. 1992. *The Costume Designer's Handbook*, 2nd ed. Heinemann Educational Books.

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(5) Parker, Oren W. and R. Craig Wolf. 1990. *Scene Design and Stage Lighting*, 6th ed. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

(6) Worthen, W. B., ed. 1993. *The HBJ Anthology of Drama*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

### B. Contact Hours:

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week/45 per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

### C. Credits:

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

### D. Catalogue Course Description:

This course is an introduction to dramatic literature and theatrical performance. Students will read examples of various types of plays and learn about the technical, design, and performance aspects of theater. Class projects will give students broad exposure to theatrical experience. (Offered Fall.)

### E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course:

This course fulfills the General Education fine arts requirement for all A.A./Liberal Arts degree emphases.

### F. Course Activities and Design:

This course incorporates reading and discussion of dramatic literature with lectures and demonstrations on various topics. Group and individual projects will be assigned that give practical experience in all aspects of theater. Video and/or film presentations will also be used. Attendance at live theater performances will be required whenever possible and assistance in performances will be encouraged. Course activities also include written assignments, quizzes, and a midterm and a final exam.

### 4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s):

English Proficiency Levels: EN 093 and EN 094



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### 5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed:

Cost to NMC: Instructor's salary, and the cost of photocopying handouts.

Cost to the student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, lab fee, and possibly the cost of some props, makeup, and/or costume pieces.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard; TV/VCR and videotaped programs; and adequate space for rehearsals, movement/acting exercises, and storage of props, costumes, makeup, and basic set pieces.

### 6. Method of Evaluation:

Student learning is evaluated on the basis of class participation, a group scene project, an individual design project, written assignments, quizzes, and a midterm and a final exam. NMC's letter grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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### 7. Course Outline:

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material is presented.

#### 1.0 History of Western Theater

- 1.1 Ancient Greek drama
- 1.2 Medieval drama
- 1.3 Elizabethan drama
- 1.4 French classical drama
- 1.5 Restoration drama
- 1.6 19th-century drama
- 1.7 Contemporary drama

#### 2.0 Western Dramatic Literature

- 2.1 Genres of drama
- 2.2 Dramatic structure, form, and style
- 2.3 Play writing

#### 3.0 Theatrical Design and Production

- 3.1 Stage design
- 3.2 Lighting design
- 3.3 Costume and makeup design
- 3.4 Props and sets
- 3.5 The design team

#### 4.0 Staging a Play Scene

- 4.1 The role of the director
- 4.2 The roles of the stage manager and playwright
- 4.3 The actor and acting
- 4.4 Technical support
- 4.5 The rehearsal process

#### 5.0 Children's Theater

- 5.1 Creative drama
- 5.2 Puppetry
- 5.3 Children's plays

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### 6.0 Asian and Pacific Theater and Dance-Dramas

- 6.1 Japanese
- 6.2 Chinese
- 6.3 Indonesian
- 6.4 Indian
- 6.5 The Pacific region
- 6.6 Contemporary Fusion theater: East meets West

### 8. Instructional Goals:

This course introduces students to:

- 1.0 The characteristics of the major periods of Western theater and dramatic literature, from classical Greece to contemporary theater;
- 2.0 Dramatic structure, form, and style as seen in various genres of plays;
- 3.0 The design team and technical aspects of theater;
- 4.0 The process of staging a play, incorporating the skilled efforts of director, actor, playwright, and technical and production staff;
- 5.0 Children's theater and creative drama as a relatively new and specialized theatrical development;
- 6.0 Asian and Pacific forms and styles of theatrical performance, and the influence they have on contemporary Western theater.

### 9. Student Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Describe the characteristics of the major periods of Western theater and dramatic literature, from classical Greece to contemporary theater;
- 2.0 Demonstrate an understanding of dramatic structure, form, and style as seen in various genres of dramas;
- 3.0 Explain the roles and responsibilities of the design team and technical staff;

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- 4.0 Prepare and perform a scene that incorporates the efforts of student director, actor, playwright, and technical and production staff;
- 5.0 Demonstrate an appreciation of children's theater and creative drama as a relatively new and specialized theatrical development;
- 6.0 Describe Asian and Pacific forms and styles of theatrical performance and the influence they have on contemporary Western theater.