

Course Expectation Resource Sheet - THE 101

“What can students expect if they choose this course?”

Course: THE 101 - Introduction to Theatre & Drama Arts

Department: Theatre & Dance

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description: The creative processes of transforming drama to stage, film and television. A study of the collaborations and contributions that the various artists make to the process. Intended to increase the audience’s ability to think critically about the artistic experience. Buying tickets to and attendance at local productions required.

Catalog: 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 9/19/2025

Gen Ed Course: Yes

Gen Ed Area: HUMAN CULTURES

Gen Ed Requirement: The Arts (GEC 112)

CORE-42 Course: Yes

CORE-42 Area: Humanities & Fine Arts

MOTR Code - MOTR Title: THEA 100A - Theatre Appreciation

Is credit also available through:

Advanced Placement (AP)?: No

College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?: No

International Baccalaureate (IB)?: Yes

(click link for more information and required scores)

Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

Last Updated: 2/13/2026

The following responses apply to: Both seated and online courses

What expectations do you have for students in this course?

COURSE GOALS: the primary goal for the course is theatre appreciation. We want students to understand how theatre works, how ideas and scripts become fully realized theatrical productions, how playwrights, directors, performers, designers and technicians interact, and how theatre has developed from its origins to what it is today. No prior theatre knowledge or experience is necessary.

more specifically, at the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of theatrical processes such as playwriting, directing, acting, and design.
2. Understand the broad developments in theatre history and how the relationship between theatre and society has changed throughout that history.
3. Demonstrably interpret and evaluate, both orally and in writing, a live theatrical performance from a variety of perspectives (artistic, cultural, social, etc.).
4. Understand how audience expectations shape the interpretation of a theatrical event. Understand the complexities of live theatre, both in terms of the process of collaboration and in terms of the way choices are made by theatre professionals and interpreted by audiences.
6. Understand a variety of performance styles and genres of theatre throughout history and across cultures.
7. Collaborate with a group of people to plan and perform a theatrical performance.

8. Understand how drama and theatre reflect and participate in complex individual and societal conversations about political, social, psychological, economic, and moral issues.

What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?

Some memorization of terms and definitions, thinking through the kinds of decisions that theatre artists make, collaboration, understanding and articulating processes for the creation of theatre. group discussion is important.

What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?

Reading the book, attending class (or watching online video lectures), review of major terms. The students who do best participate fully in the discussions in the class.

What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course?

Missing online assignments is the thing that is most detrimental to students. Missing deadlines, not following directions.

What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?

If people don't keep up with the work, particularly in the block sections of this class, it can be hard to catch up. Staying on top of the work is essential. map out the syllabus on your calendar and note due dates for quizzes, exams, projects, and discussion board questions (usually it's the same day of the week every week), and stick to a schedule. Do not hesitate to ask questions of the instructors. We love a good discussion. Be open to it. Theatre has been a part of pretty much every culture since it first appeared; it's a huge part of human cultural legacy, and even if you are not a "theatre person," there is a great deal to be learned about how human societies work and represent themselves from learning about theatre.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask "What is this class about?" (without using the catalog description)?

It is a way to appreciate theatre, both how it works in practice (how shows move from idea to page to stage) and how it has developed over time.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Theatre is a reflection of every culture that it has ever existed in. It crosses paths with every other area of human endeavor—psychology, science, music, history, dance, sociology, education, and so on. And it's fun.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Any area of the arts or humanities. History, science, psychology.

*Prepared by the Reynolds College Center for Student Success
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