RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

THEA 103 - INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

I. Basic Course Information

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2024

D. Effective Term: Fall 2024

E. Sponsoring Department: Arts and Design

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

Laboratory: 0

Out of class student work per week: 6

H. ☑ Prerequisite (s): None

 \square Corequisite (s):

☐ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s):

I. Additional Fees: None

J. Name and E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of

approval: Virginia Smith (virginia.smith@raritanval.edu)

Darren McManus (darren.mcmanus@raritanval.edu)

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II. Catalog Description

This course introduces students to the development and collaborative nature of Western theatre. Students will examine, from historical, stylistic, and cultural perspectives, how the roles and contributions of the playwright, actor, director, designer, and audience integrate to form the complete theatre experience.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The course is a requirement for the Theatre Arts, A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts. It will transfer to four-year programs as either a Theatre or Free Elective.
- B. There is no lab portion.
- C. Course Transferability:
 - 1. This course generally transfers as a Theatre Elective course depending on the transfer institution.
 - 2. This course generally transfers as a Free Elective depending on the transfer institution
 - 3. This course will transfer as a general education course depending on the transfer institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education elective in the Humanities (Appreciation of the Arts).
- C. This course fulfills a degree program requirement for the Theatre Arts, A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. History of the theatre
- B. Occupations of the theatre
- C. The genres of theatre:
- 1. Tragedy
- 2. Comedy
- 3. Farce
- 4. Tragicomedy
- 5. Melodrama
- 6. Dark comedy
- 7. Black comedy
- D. The art of the actor
- E. The art of the stage director
- F. The art of the designer
- G. The art of the playwright
- H. Script analysis
- I. The American Musical

- J. Attendance at a live theatrical performance
- K. Current trends of today's theatre

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Describe the contributions and collaborations of the various creative occupations within the theatre.
- 2. Evaluate and critique a theatrical presentation and/or performance.
- 3. Work together through group exercises.
- 4. Discover the techniques utilized by professional actors, playwrights, and directors to help in staging plays. (GE *)
- 5. Demonstrate both orally and in writing a comprehensive knowledge and critical aesthetic understanding of the historical, stylistic, and cultural development of the traditions and significance of the Western Theatre experience. (GE 1, 6, 7, *)

(* embedded critical thinking)

B. Assessment Instruments

- A. class participation
- B. reading quizzes
- C. final exam
- D. response papers
- E. presentations

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. presentations
- B. quizzes
- C. exams

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student collaboration
- D. simulation/role playing

VIII. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as) Cohen, Robert. *Theatre Brief Version*. (Latest edition, Mayfield Publishing, Mountain View, CA.)

- A. suggested textbook
- B. primary sources
- C. interviews
- D. journals
- E. reviews
- F. student writing
- G. film and video
- H. web sources

The following statement should be included in the outline:

The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. Classroom equipped with media/projection systems
- B. Library of video and DVD performances
- C. Library of plays/scripts

X. Check One: □Honors Course □Honors Options ☒ N/A