

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Introduction to the Art of Theatre

2. COURSE CODE

HUMN2027

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. PREREQUISITES

N.A.

COREQUISITES

N.A.

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Cantonese

7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

This course aims to introduce the histories and aesthetic principles of the major forms of theatre from the west to the east. It discusses the relation between different forms of theatre and their relations to reality, historical and social background. It helps students to analyse and appreciate different styles and genres of theatre, their aesthetic principle, and their relation with their time and culture. It will also show examples theatre forms with the help of original texts, videos or live performances.

8. COURSE CONTENT

- i. Introduction: theories on theatre aesthetics
- ii. Greek tragedy: from the three tragic poets to Aristotle's Poetics
- iii. Greek comedy of Aristophanes
- iv. The Medieval Theatre: Morality, Miracle and Mystery Plays
- v. The idea of Theatrum Mundi

- vi. The importance of Shakespeare
- vii. Brecht's Epic Theatre and Alienation Effect
- viii. Theatre of Absurd and existentialism: Beckett, Ionescu, Pirandello, etc.
- ix. Chekhov's naturalism and Stanilavsky's theory of acting
- x. Chinese Xiqu
- xi. Japanese Noh theatre: Zeami and the aesthetics of Noh
- xii. Conclusion: Theatre and Reality

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Narrate the major forms theatre, their histories and aesthetics
CILO 2	Analyze different works of theatre from the text to stage
CILO 3	Critically discuss the importance and relevance of theatre in different times and cultures

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will: Be given introduction to the ideas, forms and works of major theatre genre
2	Be given close reading and reading rehearsal of selected original texts in theatre Be guided to interpretation of the performance of theatre with the assistance video material
3	Be examining the meaning of different genre of theatre in their cultural and historical background

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Book Report/ Long Essay	30 %	1-3	Book report or long essay will test the students' ability to discuss a particular genre of theatre with thorough understanding substantiated by detailed analysis of selected texts.
Tutorial Presentation	30 %	1-2	Oral presentation will test the students' understanding of a genre of theatre, its historical background, authors, and aesthetic characteristics with the assistance audio-visual material.

Examination	40 %	1-3	Examination will test students' ability in comparing different works of a genre and to demonstrate in-depth understanding the historical and cultural significance of these works.
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