

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**THEA 1203 Introduction to Theatre**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

An introduction to the practice of theatre as an art form. Emphasis is on the artistic and cultural significance of the theatre and the role of the modern theatrical artist.(ACTS: DRAM 1003)

**B. Additional Course Information**

This course is required for all students seeking theatre degrees. This course must be completed before students may enroll for any other theatre class. It may be taken by students in other disciplines as an elective.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Explain the role of theatre in culture.
2. Prepare job descriptions and responsibilities for every professional job available in the modern theatrical art.
3. Exhibit a working knowledge of modern stage spaces.
4. Analyze theatrical performances with critical thinking skills.
5. Describe the elements of drama and the dramatic narrative.
6. Compare and contrast the themes of comedy, tragedy, social drama, farce, and existential works of theatre.
7. Outline the main points of the performance and design process.

8. Utilize their knowledge to produce a short work of theatre.
9. Attend a live performance and write a critique regarding the performance

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Communication is the key to the theatrical art. Students will begin to improve their communication skills by participating in small group and class discussions and by critical analysis papers.

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking**

Students will learn to critically dissect works of theatre to understand how certain patterns and events affect the audience. Course assignments will give require students to explain why certain choices are made in productions and to reinforce their arguments with data.

### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

The origins of organized theatre are from Greek and Roman times and students will read and examine works from Greek, Roman, English, Russian, and French theatrical traditions. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the culture that lead to the development of certain theatrical ideas. Organizational structures within the theatrical world will be covered and implemented in the classroom. Students will work in small groups and as a class to present large-scale projects.

## **III. MAJOR COURSE TOPICS**

- A. Theatre and Culture
- B. Theatre and Society
- C. Comedic Themes
- D. Dramatic Narrative
- E. Non-Standard Theatrical Works
- F. Critical Analysis of Theatrical Works
- G. Theatrical Roles
- H. Stage Spaces
- I. Theatrical Organization and Process
- J. Basic Acting and Design