

Theatre Arts Students' Comprehensive Knowledge of Theatre History and Literature

Theatre Arts BFA – College of the Arts

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Students will demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of theatre history and literature from the earliest beginnings of the art to modern day.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

Assessed in primary classes, THTR 475 ABC & E using four measures as follows:

- Six page paper analyzing an assigned play or theatrical text. The analysis must include a discussion of the six elements of drama: plot, character, language, idea, spectacle and music
- Five page paper analyzing an assigned play or theatrical text. The analysis must include a discussion of the historical context of the play and how that context helps in the analysis of the play
- Group presentation on concept of an assigned play that will include ideas for sets, lights, costumes, sound and acting (performance). Students will use visual aids and performance to communicate their ideas
- Six page paper analyzing and comparing the literary merit of 2-3 assigned plays or other theatrical texts using a variety of criteria

Measures are scored as follows:

Excellent (3.0)

- Demonstrates mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary
- Always uses critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis of written and performed assignments
- Provides a significant degree of specificity and detail in the analysis beyond what is assigned

Satisfactory (2.0)

- Demonstrates some mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary.
- Uses some critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis of written and performance assignments
- Provides some degree of specificity and detail in the analysis beyond what is assigned

Poor (1.0)

- Demonstrates little or no mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary

- Does not use critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis of written and performance assignments
- Provides little or no specificity and detail in the analysis

Step 3: Criteria for Success

An average score of 2.0 on the presentations and written papers in key areas:

1. Retention of Information and Identification of Key Concepts
2. Ability to Provide Short Answer Responses Related to Plays and Theatre Terminology
3. Understanding of the Timeline of Theatre History

Step 4: Results

In 2017-18, 7 BFA students were assessed in THTR 475 ABC&E. The average overall score was 2.57 in the key areas, which exceeded the criteria for success, thus the outcome was achieved.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

Results will be shared with both the History & Criticism, and the Performance areas within the department for further review and discussion.