I. Catalog Description

A study of the philosophy and aesthetics in theatre and the arts, from the works of various philosophers, directors and actors beginning with Aristotle to contemporary writers.

II. Prerequisites:

None.
III. Expanded Course Description:

The study of various critics and their analysis of dramatic literature beginning with Aristotle and continuing to the present day to give the student an historical perspective and feeling for the various movements and individuals that have led to current theatrical practice. The study of established authors, directors, actors, philosophers, and movements in order to understand where theatre has come from and, perhaps, where the future may lead us is a major component of the course. This course meets the visual and performing arts core curriculum requirement. It is also writing intensive and will fulfill one of the upper-level WI course requirements for theatre majors. Students will not be able to receive credit for this course without completing the writing component (i.e., weekly reaction papers and two term papers).
IV. Intended student outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

A) Knowledge Outcomes

1. Understand the historical theory of drama form ancient Greece to today.
2. Understand the contributions of the various cultures and their influence on modern dramas.
3. Know the significant plays and playwrights that have influenced this diverse art form.
4. Be able to identify major theatrical time periods based on the dramas produced form those time periods.
5. Be able to identify major theatrical theories of drama and comedy developed from those time periods.
6. appropriate and inappropriate ways to write about theatre.
7. the process for writing a term paper in theatre: from outline to final draft

B) Skill Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. identify the style, genre and time period of a play.
2. identify the major writers of drama, major critics, and their significance and influence on modern drama.
3. react and respond to dramatic theory in relation to various time periods.
4. understand the importance of dramatic theory and criticism across the arts spectrum.
5. compare and contrast various theatrical and artistic theories and draw outcomes to establish individual criteria for judging works of art.
6. improve writing ability.
7. prepare for essay examinations.

C) Values Outcomes (optional)

Upon completion of THEA 404, the student will:
1. develop a lifelong appreciation of the roots of theatrical arts, the playwrights and critics that have and continue to influence this diverse art form.
2. the diversity of cultures and countries, form the Greeks to Japanese Noh Theatre to Arthur Miller, and how modern drama is a culmination of these diverse cultures is also a desire outcome.
3. appreciate the work involved in writing about theatre.
V. Unless otherwise stipulated in the master syllabus by the department, the following items are subject to faculty discretion as described in each faculty member's individual course outline/syllabus:

   a) Course Requirements  
   b) Required Text(s)  
   c) Bibliography

VI. Academic Honesty: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s materials or ideas as one’s own), or doing work for another person who will receive academic credit are all-impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

VII. Students With Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Tarleton State University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other federal, state, and local laws relative to the provision of disability services. Students with disabilities attending Tarleton State University may contact the Office of Disability Services at (254) 968-9478 to request appropriate accommodation. Furthermore, formal accommodation requests cannot be made until the student has been officially admitted to Tarleton State University.

Department Head  
Teresa Davidian

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December 12, 2008

Department Head Signature  
Date