

Theatre in London
COTR 3627 (3 credits)
Spring Semester

Course Description: This Study Abroad course studies British theatre and its history culminating in a week-long trip to London. Students will be immersed in British Theatre and Theatre History with tours of the Globe Theatre, The National Theatre, The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Opera House, The Kensington Garden Costume Collection, and a Walking tour of the West End. Students will also attend performances at the Globe Theatre, The National Theatre, The West End, and the Fringe.

Course Goals: Theatre in London is an immersive course in the culture and history of British Theatre from the days of medieval pageant plays to the bright lights of the West End musical. Much of World Theatre's rich history is influenced by the growth of Theatre in Great Britain, of which London is the center. Students will experience Theatre from walking tours to performances as well as an acting class with the Mischief Theatre company, well known for their production of *The Show Goes Wrong*.

Course Objectives: (1) Upon completion of this course, students will have experienced Theatre in London and will be able to compare it with their own culture to define what they share in common and (2) Students will identify the historical and cultural influences to Theatre and the theatrical traditions which continue to shape the diverse voices of contemporary drama and the struggle to produce it.

1) Students will demonstrate how to apply critical thinking through, reading, research and site specific interactions.

2) Students will write critically to explain their comprehension of Theatrical history and its activity in the contemporary world through two essays.

3) Students will compare cultural values between British style of Theatre and what they understand of American Theatre to discover what they share in a final essay.

Required Textbooks:

The Cambridge History of British Theatre, Vol. 2, ISBN-10: 1107497086 paperback edition

Course Meeting Schedule

Week 1 History of London

Week 2 The Development of Theatre Architecture 14th-16th C.

Week 3 The Rise of the Renaissance Theatres in London

Week 4 History of the Royal Shakespeare Company

Week 5 Shakespearean performance styles.

Week 6 The English Music Hall

Trip Abroad March 1-11th

Week 7 Reflections and Discussion of trip, Paper #1 due.

Week 8 Rise of the National Theatre

Week 9 West End Theatre

Week 10^h The Fringe Theatre

Week 11 British Musical Invasion

Week 12 Current Trends in British Theatre

Paper #2 Due

ASSESSMENTS

Knowledge

1. Awareness of the complex nature of the human condition acquired through aesthetic and intellectual perceptions as evidenced in various modes of theatrical production
2. Knowledge of the various means (acting, directing, designing, constructing, playwriting, etc.) through which a theatrical concept is realized
3. Knowledge of plays that are representative of the development of theatre and drama
4. Knowledge of theatre history, including its cultural context and its modes of production
5. Knowledge of various critical theories, research sources and methodologies

Skills

1. The ability to analyze and interpret plays and other theatrical events with special attention to the skills involved in performance, directing, designing, and playwriting

2. The ability to reach an audience effectively through at least one of the components of theatrical art (acting, directing, designing, play writing, etc.)
3. The ability to function safely and effectively using contemporary theatre technology
4. The ability to use the skills and techniques needed in research
5. The ability to express in performance, in writing, in speaking, and through other modes of Communication, the results of research, critical judgment, critical thinking and other findings and discoveries
6. The ability to relate theory to theatrical literature and performance
7. The ability to respond as a critically informed member of the theatre audience

Attitudes

1. Development of a creative imagination
2. Development of an inquiring mind
3. Development of a sense of social responsibility
4. Development of professional discipline
5. Development of a collaborative attitude
6. Development of artistic standards and judgment
7. Development of respect for the art form