

Mt. San Jacinto College
Honors Course Outline Addendum

Submitted by:	Shezwae Powell	Date:	06/25/2020
Course Discipline:	Theater Arts		
Course Number:	THA 101H	Honors Courses End in "H"	
Title:	Honors Introduction to Theater	Must begin with "Honors"	

Honors Course Objectives:

1. Analyze the influence of Aristotle's Poetics on playwrights.
 2. Evaluate the artistic merits of a live production, in relation to the historical contexts of the script, design elements, and acting styles.
 3. Develop a thesis about a particular playwright from one of the following historical eras: Classical Greek, Elizabethan England, 17th Century France or Spain, Restoration England, 19th Century Realists (Ibsen, Strindberg or Chekhov) or Contemporary 20th Century American playwrights.

Honors Course Content:

- Topics to the be covered in the honors component will be all of those covered in THA 101 along with a greater breadth of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

A. Aristotle's *Poetics*

1. Purpose of Tragedy and Comedy

B. The role of Gender and Sexuality in 19th century theater

1. Female playwrights
 2. Female Actors

C. The role played by Censorship in the early Realism movement

1. The role played by private theaters

D. The original purpose of and the lasting legacy of Blackface Minstrelsy

Honors Course Assignments:

- Students in the Honors section are expected to complete all work, as described in the THA 101 Outline of Record, in addition to having regularly-scheduled meetings with the instructor, and completing the following enrichment assignments:

A. All honors students will be expected to attend at least one additional live theatrical event (of a substantial quality, to be determined during the regularly-scheduled meetings with the instructor). Whenever possible and appropriate, the honors students may attend a production with other students in the honors course and/or with the instructor in a field trip setting.

Students will write a 4-5 page performance critique that demonstrate both a prescriptive and descriptive critical analysis of each of this production, in relation to the elements of drama, as discussed in the text/lecture and Goethe's three functions of art.

B. Honors students will choose ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS as an enrichment assignment.

1.OPTION A: Honors students may choose to examine at least three pieces of theatrical literature representative of a single playwright's work, analyzing themes, structure, character and plot development. Secondary scholarly sources will aid the student in completing this research assignment, resulting in a 5-8 page paper which follows MLA standards, citing at least four scholarly sources.

2. OPTION B: Honors students may choose a particular historical era, from Classical Greek, Middle Ages, Elizabethan England, 17th Century France and Spain, Restoration England, 18th and 19th Centuries in European Theater, or 20th & 21st century American Contemporary Theater, on which to focus. Students are asked to research a specific aspect of this era's artistic contributions from a wider perspective which may include but not limited to theater, dance, sculpture, music, painting, and other fine and performance arts while also recognizing cultural and political influences of the times. Students will write a 5-8 page research paper which follows MLA standards, citing at least four scholarly sources.

Possible topics might be but are not limited to: Classical Greek - Compare and contrast the Greek notion of *hamartia* with our modern conceptions of guilt and moral failure. Can we still understand Greek tragedy with such a different moral worldview?; Elizabethan - The Elizabethan shareholder system; Restoration - Women's place in English society according to Restoration Comedies of Manners; 20th century American Contemporary Theater - Broadway during America's Bicentennial: How shows like Chicago, Pacific Overtures, and A Chorus Line each reflected a different view of the American Dream.

3. OPTION C: The student and instructor will identify a local organization (religious, community outreach, senior center, youth group etc) that is putting on a theater production. The student will volunteer a minimum of 10 hours to help with their production performing tasks like assistance with set and costume construction; ticket sales; ushering; marketing; backstage crew to name a few. The focus will be for the student to bring in their own interests and expertise to see how they may be of service to the creative process of theater production. Additionally, the student will prepare a 4-7 page reflection on the experience incorporating a minimum of 3 outside, academic sources.

Evaluation of Honors Course Assignments:

To receive honors credit, students must successfully complete all course work from THA 101. Students must actively participate in honors class meetings with the instructor and complete the honors enrichment assignments.

Performance critiques are evaluated based on the departmental rubric provided for students and discussed, at length in class. Performances are evaluated based on the strengths of directorial concepts, design elements, performances, script, and artistic merits of the production. Additionally, critique organization, grammar, and correct use of theatrical terminology are evaluated. Research papers are evaluated on the depth of scholarly research and development of an original thesis argument. In addition, the paper's organization, grammar, and correct use of theatrical terminology are evaluated.

Service Learning Projects will be evaluated on the basis of having completed the required amount of hours, demonstrating a broadened awareness of the creative process involved in making theater, identifying the importance of each person's contribution and identifying ways in which theater enriches the community at large. In addition the accompanying paper will be evaluated on all the same academic standards as research papers -i.e. organization, grammar, correct use of theatrical terminology and scholarly research.

Additional Methods of Instruction:

A minimum of three one on one meetings between student and instructor during the semester. The purpose of the meetings can include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Discuss progress on research topic
- B. Guidance in writing a thesis statement
- C. Review the readings
- D. Guidance on research techniques for their paper
- E. Discuss live performance selection
- F. Discuss availability of field trip(s) with instructor and other students.
- G. Investigate possible Service Project opportunities.