

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Course: DR101 Introduction to Drama and Theater

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2026

Type of Action:

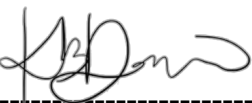
- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: DR101

Course Title: Introduction to Drama and Theater

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

The course guide has been updated to reflect the changes to course materials and course offerings in both the fall and spring semesters.

Kaelani B. Demapan  01/16/26

Proposer **Date**

Kaelani B. Demapan  01/16/26

Academic Unit Head **Date**

Lorraine Maui  01/16/26

Dean of Academic Programs and Services **Date**

Course Guide**Course:** DR 101 Introduction to Drama and Theater**1. Department**

Social Sciences & Fine Arts

2. Purpose

DR101 provides an overview of theater and dramatic literature as an art form with varying expressions throughout time and cultures. It is the appropriate complement for students interested in the art of acting and for those students who are not actors but wish to learn more about dramatic literature and about the design and technical aspects of theater. NMC's theatrical productions will benefit from the development of an informed audience as well as from the training of knowledgeable backstage and design support.

The primary target population for this course consists of students satisfying the general education fine arts/performing or visual arts requirements.

3. Description**A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials**

Required:

Will be provided by the instructor

B. Contact Hours**1. Lecture:** 3 per week/ 45 per semester**2. Lab:** None**3. Other:** None**C. Credits****1. Number:** 3**2. Type:** Regular Degree Credits**D. Catalogue Course Description**

This course is an introduction to dramatic literature and theatrical performance. Students will read examples of various types of plays and learn about the technical, design, and performance aspects of theater. Class projects will give students broad exposure to theatrical experience. (Offered Fall and Spring)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the General Education fine arts/performing or visual arts requirement.

F. Course Activities and Design

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This course incorporates reading and discussion of dramatic literature with lectures and demonstrations on various topics. Group and individual projects will be assigned that give practice experience in all aspects of theater. Video and/or film presentations will also be used. Attendance at live theater performances will be required whenever possible and assistance in performances will be encouraged. Course activities also include written assignments, quizzes, and a midterm and a final exam.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment**Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s)**

English Placement Level: EN093 and EN094

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to NMC: Instructor's salary and the cost of photocopying handouts.

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit-hour course, lab fee, and possibly the cost of some props, makeup, and/or costume pieces.

Instructional resources needed for this course include: whiteboard, video/digital programs, and adequate space for rehearsals, movement/acting exercises, and storage of props, costumes, makeup, and basic set pieces.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student learning is evaluated on the basis of class participation, a group scene project, an individual design project, written assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. NMC's letter grading and attendance policies will be followed.

Course Guide**Course:** DR 101 Introduction to Drama and Theater**7. Course Outline**

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 History of Western Theater
 - 1.1 Ancient Greek drama
 - 1.2 Medieval drama
 - 1.3 Elizabethan drama
 - 1.4 French Classical drama
 - 1.5 Restoration drama
 - 1.6 19th-century drama
 - 1.7 Contemporary drama

- 2.0 Western Dramatic Literature
 - 2.1 Genres of drama
 - 2.2 Dramatic structure, form, and style
 - 2.3 Play writing

- 3.0 Theatrical Design and Production
 - 3.1 Stage design
 - 3.2 Lighting design
 - 3.3 Costume and makeup design
 - 3.4 Props and sets
 - 3.5 The design team

- 4.0 Staging a Play Scene
 - 4.1 The role of the director
 - 4.2 The roles of the stage manager and playwright
 - 4.3 The actor and acting
 - 4.4 Technical support
 - 4.5 The rehearsal process

- 5.0 Children's Theater
 - 5.1 Creative drama
 - 5.2 Puppetry
 - 5.3 Children's plays

- 6.0 Asian and Pacific Theater and Dance-Dramas
 - 6.1 Japanese

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6.2 Chinese

6.3 Indonesian

6.4 Indian

6.5 The Pacific region

6.6 Contemporary Fusion theater: East meets West

8. Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

1.0 The characteristics of the major periods of Western theater and dramatic literature, from classical Greece to contemporary theater;

2.0 Dramatic structure, form, and style as seen in various genres of plays;

3.0 The design team and technical aspects of theater;

4.0 The process of staging, play, incorporating the skilled efforts of the director, actor, playwright, and technical and production staff;

5.0 Children's theater and creative drama as a relatively new and specialized theatrical development; and

6.0 Asian and Pacific forms and styles of theatrical performance, and the influence they have on contemporary and Western theater.

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9. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1.0 Describe the characteristics of the major periods of Western theater and dramatic literature, from classical Greece to contemporary theater;

2.0 Demonstrate an understanding of dramatic structure, form, and style as seen in various genres of dramas;

3.0 Explain the roles and responsibilities of the design team and technical staff;

4.0 Prepare and perform a scene that incorporates the efforts of the student director, actor, playwright, and technical and production staff;

5.0 Demonstrate an appreciation of children's theater, creative drama, and specialized theatrical development; and

6.0 Describe Asian and Pacific forms and styles of theatrical performance and the influence they have on contemporary Western theater.