

Department: DRAM

Course No: 3130

Credits: 3

Title: Women in Theatre

Contact: David Stern

Content Area: CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism

Diversity: CA4 Non-International

Catalog Copy: DRAM 230. Women in Theatre

Either semester. Three credits. Open to sophomores or higher. McDermott

A study of theatre examining the changing depiction of women in drama and the increasing participation of women in all areas of theatrical activity. Women's advancement in western and Asian theatre will be surveyed as a background for focusing on plays written in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Information:

- a) The course aims to familiarize students with plays written by women as well as introduce them to women's increasing participation in all areas of the theatre.
- b) 15 to 20 plays will be read; exams will include a comprehensive midterm and final which include both objective and essay questions; quizzes may occur; research reports on individually chosen and approved topics will be presented to the entire class in oral form accompanied with outlines and bibliography; a short paper (less than five pages) will be assigned; a longer paper is optional.
- c) Major themes include women's self expression, the discrimination against women in various societies, the accomplishments of women in theatre.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed.:

Become articulate:

The course will sharpen students critical and articulation skills by emphasizing research, discussion, and formal presentation of ideas in individual oral reports on approved topics.

Acquire critical judgement:

Through the readings and the requirement of synthesizing ideas and articulating them in the oral reports noted above, students will be required to make critical judgements about both the dramatic form and merits of various works and the ethical/societal issues inherent in their themes and plots.

Acquire moral sensitivity:

The themes and contents of many of the plays studied in this course address both moral and

ethical issues. The themes of most dramas involve characters' conflicts over the moral choices they must make. Such issues, within both the scripts and the institutions and societies that gave rise to them, constitute a major portion of the course's content.

Acquire consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience:

In order for a democracy to function properly its citizens must acknowledge and respect the experience of people who are different from themselves. Educated individuals should provide models of moral sensitivity and be articulate about their points of view. Women in Theatre will broaden students knowledge of other human beings and their forms of artistic expression.

CA4 Criteria:

Emphasize that there are varieties of human experiences, perceptions, thoughts, values and/or modes of creativity:

The range of human experience is vast; in order for each of us to become fully developed we must learn about the special attributes which exist among those who are different from ourselves. Women in Theatre explores the unique contributions of women playwrights, directors, designers, and performers. In so doing it opens a window into the lives and imaginations of women in both dominant and minority cultures. The plays studied by the entire class are examined within their social/historical context and as works of art. Individual research projects are chosen by each student then reported on orally for the group; these expand the historical and critical breadth of the class. Through this diversity, a foundation is laid for greater appreciation of women's lives and theatrical art.

Consider the similarities that may exist among diverse groups:

Art functions in part through an emphasis on shared perception; tolerance benefits by each individual seeing the Other as both separate from and similar to oneself. To this end course reading and discussion encourage consideration of similarity among people as well as difference. When someone of a different gender, ethnicity, or class connects with a work created by another, his/her humanity is enlarged.