

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

INSTRUCTION DIVISION

First Semester : 2016-17

Course Handout (Part-II)

Date: 1/08/2016

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F 339
Course Title : THEATRE ART ACTING & PRODUCTION
Instructor-in-charge : M.G.PRASUNA
Course Instructor : PranavaSinghal

1. Scope and Objective of the Course:

The objective of the course is to familiarize students with the nature of understanding Theatre, Theatre Production and Acting Techniques. This course introduces students to the study of theatre from across the world. It will also study the influences on dramatic literature and aesthetics, with emphasis on English and Indian language schools. Students will be introduced to the different functions in the production of a play, to divergent theatrical styles, and also introduce students to the techniques of voice training and Modulation, Posture, Body Language, Movement, Expression and 'Audience Impact'.

2. Reference Books:

1. Encyclopedia of Acting Techniques; Author John Perry; Publisher: Betterway Books; (March 1997)
2. Actor at Work 10th Edition ;Author Robert Benedetti Publisher Allyn & Bacon, 2008
3. The Actor's Art; A Practical Treatise on Stage Declamation, Public Speaking and Deportment, for the Use of Artists, Students and Amateurs ;Author Gustave Garcia; Publisher Rarebooksclub.com; 2012
4. How Plays Work: Reading and Performance; Author Martin Meisel; Publisher Oxford University Press, USA; Publication Year 2007
5. The Theory of the Modern Stage from Artaud to Zola : An Introduction to Modern Theatre and Drama Edited By Eric Bentley; Publisher Penguin; Imprint Penguin Modern Classics; 2009
6. The Complete Handbook of Play Production; Author Carl Allensworth; Publisher: Harper & Row; Revised edition (1982)
7. The Handbook of Stage Lighting ;Author: Neil Fraser, Simon Bennison; Publisher: Crowood Press (uk) (2007)
8. The Empty Space; Author Peter Brook; Publisher Penguin; 2008
9. The Theatre: A Concise History ;Author Phyllis Hartnoll; Publisher Thames & Hudson; 2012

Encyclopedias :

1. The Oxford Guide to Indian Theatre

2. The Cambridge Guide to Theatre

3The Cambridge History of American Theatre

Drama Texts :As assigned in class

Various Internet Resources :As indicated in clas

4.Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered
1 -2	Introduction to Theatre	Introductions to theatre. Components of theatre:Medium of Theatre vs Film
3-4	History of Theatre	Theatre in primitivesocieties Greek theatre Roman theatre In other parts of the Old World
5	History of Theatre	Development of theatre in Asia. Evolution in India Modern Indian theatre form
6-7	Evolution of English Theatre	Medieval, Shakespearian, Edwardian, Victorian, Modern, Theatre in the US; in other parts of the world
8	Influences on Theatre	Historical; Cultural; Political; Economic.
9	Selecting a Play	Time and Age in which the play is set; current relevance; target audience ; set; production values; other works by the playwright
10-12	Study of Stage	Components; Nomenclature; Usage.
13- 16	Performing Spaces	Different types of Performing Spaces; advantages and disadvantages; difference in actor's technique
17-19	Theatre Genres Theatrical Styles	Drama (Tragedy,Epic,Melodrama), Comedy (High,Low,Farce) Realism, Fantasy, Expressionism,Absurd,Post- Modernist
20-22	Voice	Modulation; emoting; impact; breathing exercises; voice exercises
23-25	Body,Movement , and Stage Blocking	Posture; use of feet; use of hands; facial expressions; focus of

		attention. Types; pros & cons; basics of blocking; movement on stage
26-27	Performing Comedy	Special techniques in Voice & Movement for maximizing comic impact.
28 - 29	Characterization and the Psychology of Acting	Understanding the psyche of the character; getting into character; in relation to others; in relation to the audience.
30 - 31	Performing Shakespeare	Understanding, appreciating and performing Shakespeare
32	Audio Equipment- Overview	Types of equipment; benefits of each type; positioning of microphones; positioning of speakers.
33	Lighting Equipment- Overview	Types and benefits; suitability and appropriateness; creative use of lights
34 - 35	Set Design & Construction	Understanding various types of set design(Realistic, Expressivist, Minimalist etc), and basic set construction and execution.
36	Field Visit to Auditorium	Practical understanding of stage spaces, stage components and Technical equipment.
37 - 38	Production Values 'Unity of Production Design'	Unity of Genre and style in Set design, Props; costumes; make up;. Lighting; sound
39 - 40	Common Mistakes	Types of errors. Handling these shortcomings.
41 - 42	Performing	In front of audience/camera. Overcoming self consciousness and Stage Fright ; and 'Stage Presence';

Note : 1. Practical Instruction covered in Learning Objectives for Lectures 10 – 16, 20 – 31 and 39 - 42 will actually commence from Lecture 1, as a parallel integral part of every Lecture.

5. Home Assignments:

PROJECTS

To be announced in the class

6. Evaluation Schedule :

T1 : (20%) 40 marks (Individual performance on Posture, Voice, expression, emphasis)

T2 :(20%) 40 marks (Individual performance on Posture, Voice, modulation , emphasis plus Movement, Blocking, Use of stage space)

Home Assignments : (20%) 40 marks

Comprehensive : (40%) 80 marks (40 marks :written Exam on “Production Theory: Directing and Producing a specified play); – 40 marks : Practical individual performance)

7. **Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in the class.

8. **Notices:** Notices will be displayed on the Notice Board of Humanities & Social Sciences only. Assignments/ Additional resource material will be posted online.

**Instructor-in-charge
HSS F 339**