

Date: Fall 2008

I. Course Name: Introduction to Dramatic Literature

Prefix and Number: THE 210

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the history and genre of drama. By exploring some of the best-known plays throughout theatre history and how they were performed students will develop an understanding of, and appreciation for the theatre. Lectures, films, and attendance will provide students with a partial overview of the vast range of theatre history and literature. Prerequisite: ENG 102 Introduction to Literature. (also listed as ENG 213)

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

A. Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the significance of each of the dramatic works we study in the context in which they were originally produced.
2. Develop a vocabulary of key theatrical terms (including historical periods, genres, staging terms, etc.) that will enable students to discuss and write about drama articulately and intelligently.
3. Develop students' ability to read plays closely, perceptively, and imaginatively, and to speak and write about them thoughtfully, critically, and creatively.
4. Gain an understanding of plays as both literary and performance texts, and develop an awareness of the significance of performance in understanding theatre.
5. View and review a live performance.
6. Work in a group or alone on a creative project in one of the following areas of the theatre (scene or monologue presentation, costume renderings, or set design).

B. Relationship to Academic programs and curriculum:

This is a required course for Theatre Arts majors and is the writing intensive course specific to this department. This course is also open to the college community and can either be taken for three credits of Humanities or English elective. Lastly, this course can be used to satisfy the general education ARTS requirement.

C. College competencies addressed by the course:

Writing
Oral Communication
Reading
Problem-Solving
Ethics/Values
Global Concerns

Information Resources
Professional Competency

- III. Methods of Instruction
- A. Types of Course Materials
 - a. Textbook
 - b. Attendance of a live performance
 - c. MLA style book
 - d. Writing handbook and college-level dictionary
 - B. Methods of Instruction
 - a. Lectures
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Play viewing
 - d. Formal and informal writing assignments
 - C. Assessment Measures
 - a. Assignments and activities will assess the students' ability to interpret the literature based on the historical information they are provided.
 - D. Methods of Evaluation
 - Students will be evaluated on their participation in-class discussions, reading quizzes, a play review, play analyses, a creative project, and informal and formal essay assignments.

IV. **General Outline of Topics covered**

- A. Overview of Theatre History
- B. Elements of Drama
- C. Why Write about Drama
 - a. Close Readings
 - b. Play Analysis
 - c. Critical Analysis
 - d. Reviews
- D. Greek
- E. Roman
- F. Medieval
- G. Renaissance
- H. Restoration
- I. 17th and 18th Century
- J. 19th Century
- K. Early and Mid 20th century
- L. Contemporary
- M. Creative Projects