

CATALOG INFORMATION

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Dept & Nbr: THE 202 Title: DRAMATIC LITERATURE

Full Title: Introduction to Dramatic Literature

Units	Course Hours	Per Week	Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours	Total
Max: 3.0	Lecture	3.0	17	Lecture	51.0
Min: 3.0	Lab	0.0		Lab	0.0
	Contact DHR	0.0		Contact DHR	0.0
	Contact Total	3.0		Contact Total	51.0
	Non-contact DHR	0.0		Non-contact DHR	0.0

Title 5 Category: 01 AA Degree Applic  
Grading: GC Credit course for grade or CR/NC  
Repeatability: 00 No repeatability allowed or defined  
Also listed as:

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This class is an introduction to theatre as a literary genre. Students read and discuss a variety of significant dramatic texts, with an emphasis on modern American plays. Some European and non-Western dramatic texts from various historical periods may also be included. Students develop the ability to critically analyze play scripts, exploring such topics as theme, character, dramatic structure and historical context. Careful attention is given to plays as literature intended to be performed, and the analytical and conceptual viewpoints of the actor, director and designer are considered.

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:

ENG 200

LIMITS ON ENROLLMENT:

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES INFORMATION:

Recommended: ENG 200

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Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

## ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATE DEGREE:                   Effective: FALL     2002   Inactive:  
 Area:                                C     HUMANITIES

CSU GE:                               Effective: FALL     2002   Inactive:  
 Transfer area:                    C1   ARTS

IGETC:                               Effective: FALL     2004   Inactive:  
 Transfer area:                    3A   ART

CSU TRANSFER: TRANSFERABLE   Effective: FALL     2002   Inactive:

UC TRANSFER: TRANSFERABLE   Effective: FALL     2002   Inactive:

CAN:

CERTIFICATE APPLICABLE:    N     NOT CERTIFICATE/MAJOR APPLICABLE

## APPROVAL AND DATES

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Version 01           Submitted by: REID EDELMAN                               Date: 04/27/2001  
                   Department approved:   Date:  
                   Curriculum approved: 09/26/2001                       Version approved: 09/26/2001  
                   Prerequisites approved: 09/26/2001                    Last reviewed: 09/26/2001  
 Term effective: FALL   2002   Last taught: SUMMER 2004   Inactive:

## COURSE CONTENT

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## OUTCOME AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Read and critically analyze a variety of dramatic texts.
2. Identify and explore the importance of theme, character, language, and plot in each selected play.
3. Evaluate the literary and historical contexts of selected plays.
4. Appreciate plays as performance texts and understand the analytical approaches used by actors, directors and designers preparing for production.
5. Identify various possible interpretations of textual meanings.
6. Analyze character's objectives and beat transitions in selected dramatic texts.
7. Recognize and apply principles of script analysis, including objectives, spine, arc and through line of action.
8. Compare dramatic texts from a variety of cultures.
9. Speculate on the impact of historical period, social environment and geographical landscape on dramatic style.
10. Recognize the potential influence of the director, the designer and the actors on a given dramatic text.
11. Compare various theatrical styles of performance.

## TOPICS AND SCOPE:

1. What is a play?
  - a. Definitions
  - b. Historical overview and context
2. Elements of dramatic literature & how to read a play

- a. Dramatic structure and plot
- b. Theme
- c. Language
- d. Character
- e. Production concept and vision
- 3. Analytical techniques
  - a. Beats, objectives, arc, spine and through line of action
  - b. Approaching a play for performance (the roles of the director, designer, and actor)
- 4. Play reading and discussion
  - a. Genre and style
  - b. Cultural influences
  - c. Historical influences
- 5. Historical traditions
  - a. The Greeks
  - b. Shakespeare and Elizabethan Theatre
  - c. Moliere
  - d. Commedia del arte
  - e. Non-western Theatre traditions

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

##### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Various play scripts.

##### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Frequent short analytical essays on selected plays.
2. Written character biography / character analysis assignment.
3. Final project (a major creative project accompanied by an analytical essay linking theory and practice).

##### OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Careful reading of play texts, frequent written assignments.
2. Each student will attend two theatrical performances.

##### ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING:

1. Analysis of dramatic texts,
2. Produce conceptual vision for interpretation of texts through creative projects,
3. Produce written analyses of characters, action and dramatic structure,
4. Apply concepts of script analysis to comparative analysis of dramatic texts.

#### METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, small and large group discussions, assigned readings, writing groups, hand-outs, experiential exercises and theatre attendance.

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Written performance reviews of live theatre productions, 2. Written essays and analyses, 3. Oral communication of concepts through class discussions, 4. Skill demonstrations, including exercises and projects. Written analytic assignments-approximately 20%; Written creative assignments-approximately 20%; Oral assignments and participation-approximately 20%; Mid-term exam-approximately 20%; Final Exam approximately 20 %

## BASIS FOR GRADING:

The assignment of a grade is based on the level of achievement of the outcomes and objectives of the course outline and is reflected in quantifiable terms in the course syllabus.

## REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Students will read 6-10 play during the semester. The reading list will emphasize American drama, but may also include European and non-western dramatic texts. The instructor may choose to use a single text anthology of plays, such as:

Types of Drama, plays and essays by Sylvan Barnet, Morton Berman and William Burto (Little Brown & Co., 1981)

Or a collection of individual play texts such as: Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller; A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams; The Iceman Cometh by Eugene O'Neill; Fences by August Wilson; Angels in America by Tony Kushner; How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel; Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley; Glengarry Glen Ross by David Marnet; For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf by Ntozake Shange; Top Girls by Caryl Churchill; Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett; A Dolls House by Henrik Ibsen; Oedipus by Sophocies; Tartuffe by Moliere; A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare.

Other Materials: Handouts

## RESOURCES REQUIRED

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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Advisory generate desc:	N	NO
Area department:	THE	THEATRE ARTS
Audit flag:	N	NOT AUDITABLE
Basic skills:	X	NOT BASIC SKILLS
Classification:	A	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Cost level:	01	
Disciplines:		THEATRE ARTS
Division:	01	GAITHER LOEWENSTEIN
Faculty service areas:		THEATRE ARTS
Fee:	\$0.00	
In-service:	X	NOT IN-SERVICE
Level below transfer:	X	NOT APPLICABLE
Matric-requiring:	X	Exempt from assessment
Maximum class size:	0	
Maximum wait list:	0	
Method of instruction:	02	LECTURE
Non-credit category:	X	NOT APPLICABLE, CREDIT COURSE
Open entry/exit:	N	Not open entry/exit
Pacs activity:	1007	DRAMATIC ARTS
Pacs program project:	0000	
Preq/coreq generate desc:	N	NO
Preq/coreq provisional:	N	NO
Preq/coreq reg check:	N	NO PREREQUISITE RULES EXIST
Repeat group id:		
Requires instructor sig:	N	INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE NOT REQUIRED
SAM classification:	E	Non-occupational
Selected/special topic:	N	NOT A SELECTED TOPIC COURSE
Special class:	X	NOT A SPECIAL COURSE
TOP code:	1007.00	DRAMATIC ARTS
Workload:	0.000	