Degree Applicable

Glendale Community College
May 2013

# COURSE OUTLINE

**English 116**
**Introduction to Drama**

## I. Catalog Statement

English 116 is an historical survey of drama as a genre from the Classical period to the present day. The course will introduce students to the elements of drama, and emphasize class analysis or representative plays from selected periods. Students write critical papers about dramatic works, and are encouraged to express their interpretations of plays.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0
**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0
**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

## II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:
1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
5. gather and organize information through library research;
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: Control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

## III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. develop an appreciation and technical understanding of the elements of drama, including plot, character, symbol and theme, staging techniques, use dialogue, and experimentation;
2. practice the methods of interpreting and critically analyzing works of drama;
3. practice effective techniques of organizing and developing critical essays and using research materials.

## IV. Course Content — Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48 hours

A. The elements of drama — 8 hours

1. plot and dramatic structure
2. character
3. the Classical genres
4. dramatic conflict

B. Greek and Roman drama — 8 hours

1. Aristotle's theory of tragedy
2. a study of Greek tragedy
3. Roman drama
4. representative Roman comedies

C. Medieval and Renaissance drama in England — 8 hours

1. drama before Shakespeare
2. Elizabethan plays
3. Renaissance moral comedy
4. Jacobean tragedy

D. Restoration and Eighteenth-Century drama — 8 hours

1. French Neo-Classical tragedy
2. French Neo-Classical comedy
3. Restoration comedy in England
4. late 18th Century comedy in England

E. The Nineteenth Century — 8 hours

1. drama in Europe
2. drama in England

F. Twentieth-Century drama — 8 hours

1. expressionism
2. theatre of the absurd and experimental drama

## V. Methods of Instruction

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lectures, directed class discussions, small-group discussions, peer group writing workshops, individual conferences, small-group conferences, and student presentations;
2. films, audio-visuals, slides, and hand-out materials may be used to supplement lectures, discussion, and readings;
3. debate, play-reading activities, group projects, or other active learning;
4. guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material;
5. student ownership and presentation of assigned course material.

## VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. attendance at plays with subsequent, reflective essays;
2. essays of analysis, evaluation, argumentation;
3. documented research paper that includes close reading of primary and secondary sources and that incorporates the principles of logic, analysis, and argument
4. reading journal;
5. preparation for oral presentations and group projects;
6. annotated bibliography.

## VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. documented research paper with primary and secondary sources;
2. four 500-750 word essays;
3. quizzes on readings;
4. term project;
5. final examination.

## VIII. Textbooks

Gainor, *The Norton Anthology of Drama (Shorter Edition),*
New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0393934120.

Klaus, *Stages of Drama,* Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2002.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-0312397333.

Jacobus, *The Bedford Introduction to Drama,* Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012.
14th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: # 978-1457606328.

## IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. understand critical concepts in drama such as plot character, symbol, theme, staging, dialogue, and experimentation;
2. read critically in order to analyze dramatic works for themes and other literary and technical elements;
3. write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret works of drama.