

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Theatre Arts 107 (C-ID Number: THTR 114) Drama Heritage: Play Structure, Form, and Analysis (C-ID Title: Script Analysis)**

#### **I. Catalog Statement**

Theatre Arts 107 is a survey of dramatic literature from the classical to the contemporary periods from the structural, stage production, and analytical points of view. The course combines reading, analyzing and understanding play scripts with field trips to local theatres and in-class audio-visual presentations. The student examines the playwright's methods of creating theatre and learns to distinguish between a play as literature versus a play as performance.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Prerequisite: None.

Note: During the semester, students are expected to attend professional and Glendale Community College Theatre Arts Department productions as a part of the learning process.

#### **II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 4; Math 1.

#### **III. Course Exit Standards**

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

1. identify representative plays and playwrights of each of the major periods and styles of dramatic literature;
2. demonstrate a respect and appreciation of plays and playwrights, their problems, techniques and relevance to social conditions of the past and present;
3. demonstrate this respect and appreciation through class participation and written assignments dealing with the comparing and contrasting of the various plays and playwrights under study;
4. identify the patterns common to most, if not all, dramatic storytelling.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48**

A. Drama and Ritual	2 hours
1. Religion and theatre	
2. Common rituals in society	
3. Theatrical conventions	
B. Seeing a Play Onstage	2 hours
1. Audience etiquette	
2. Willing suspension of disbelief	
3. Differences in reading a play (plays as literature)	
4. Staging practices	
C. Reading a Play	2 hours
1. Stage directions	
2. Characters	
3. Differences in seeing a play (plays in performance)	
D. The Great Ages of Drama	20 hours
1. Greek drama	
2. Roman drama	
3. Medieval drama	
4. Renaissance drama	
5. Late seventeenth and eighteenth century drama	
6. Nineteenth century drama	
7. Drama in the twentieth century	
8. Drama in the early and mid-twentieth century	
9. Contemporary drama	
E. Genres of Drama	10 hours
1. Tragedy	
2. Comedy	
3. Tragicomedy	
F. Structure of Drama	12 hours
1. Aristotle: <i>The Poetics</i>	
2. Plot	
3. Character	
4. Setting	
5. Dialogue	
6. Music	
7. Movement	
8. Theme	

## **V. Methods of Instruction**

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

1. lecture;
2. multimedia presentations;
3. individual or group student presentations;
4. discussion;
5. collaborative learning (e.g. group discussion about Greek theatre);
6. field trips (e.g. see a play in Los Angeles).

## **VI. Out of Class Assignments**

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

1. essay (e.g. “Compare the subject of identity in contrasting genres”);
2. research paper (e.g. explore the playwright’s intent or background when writing a play);
3. group projects (e.g. a written outline and presentation of a specific play);
4. critique (e.g. a play review of a live theatrical production).

## **VII. Methods of Evaluation**

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

1. objective examinations (e.g. multiple choice, essay, short answer);
2. written work (e.g. essays, play reviews, research papers);
3. research project (e.g. collaborative group work on a playwright or a style of theatre).

## **VIII. Textbooks**

Barranger, Milly. *Understanding Plays*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Old Tappan, NJ: Pearson, 2004.  
Print.

14<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-205-38190-1.

Jacobus, Lee. *The Bedford Introduction to Drama* 7<sup>th</sup> edition Bedford St. Martins, 2012.  
14<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-1457606328.

Ball, David, *Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*.  
1<sup>st</sup> edition. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1983. Print.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN 978-0809311101.

Individual play scripts for reading and analysis.

**IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. identify representative plays and playwrights of each of the major periods and styles of dramatic literature;
2. demonstrate a respect and appreciation of plays and playwrights, their techniques and relevance to social conditions of the past and present;
3. Identify the differences between plays as literature and plays in production.