# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 116**

**Introduction to Drama**

1. **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 are encouraged to express their interpretations of plays and write critical papers about dramatic works.

#### Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

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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

demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.

1. **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. learn and practice the methods of interpreting and critically analyzing works of drama
3. learn and practice effective techniques of organizing and developing critical essays and using research materials.

**IV.** **Course Content**

A. The elements of drama 8 hours

1. plot and dramatic structure
2. character
3. the Classical genres
4. dramatic conflict
5. some illustrative plays

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
3. **Methods of Presentation**

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. Writing, both in and out of class, will be an integral part of the course
3. Collaborative learning
4. Educational technologies including word processing, Internet, and electronic presentation.
5. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
6. four 500-750 word essays
7. quizzes on readings
8. a research paper
9. final examination
10. **Textbooks**

Klaus, Stages of Drama, 5th edition, 031239733X, Bedford, 2002

Jacobus, The Bedford Introduction to Drama, 6th edition, 0312474881, Bedford, 2008

1. **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.