



COURSE OUTLINE : T ART 155
D Credit – Degree Applicable
COURSE ID 010024
Cyclical Review: October 2020

COURSE DISCIPLINE : T ART
COURSE NUMBER : 155
COURSE TITLE (FULL) : Introduction to Playwriting
COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Introduction to Playwriting

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

T ART 155 is the study and practice of writing dramatic works for the stage. Students gain a greater understanding of how to write for the stage through reading plays, analyzing play structure, peer evaluation of writing assignments, participating in the play development process, understanding the commerce of playwriting, and having original works performed in front of an audience.

CATALOG NOTES

Note: This course may include trips to local professional and/or amateur theatre productions. Students may also present their plays in a staged-reading or performance at the conclusion of the class for a public audience.

Total Lecture Units: 3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours: 54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Prerequisite: None.



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ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1				N/A	No

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 discuss plays and playwrights, their challenges, techniques, and relevance to social conditions of the past and present;
- 2 apply the elements of play structure and skills used in crafting plays;
- 3 illustrate the awareness and expression of theater arts design elements such as lights, sound, scenery, and costume;
- 4 identify playwriting terminology such as stage directions, pause, beat, dialogue, monologue, and character;
- 5 assess playwriting through critique and performance in front of an audience.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify basic storytelling elements of dramatic writing
- 2 demonstrate dramatic writing fundamentals
- 3 evaluate plays and apply critical response techniques to written work for the stage



COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	<p>Dramaturgy and Play Analysis</p> <p>Introduction to Aristotle</p> <p>Play structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot, character, theme, diction, melody, spectacle • Additional approaches to structure in history from Greeks to present <p>Playwriting and relation to social, political, and economic influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressionism, modernism, theatre of the absurd • Playwright as “builder of plays” • The role of the dramaturge and analyzing a play as dramaturge <p>Types of plays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-minute play • One-act play • Full-length play <p>Discussion of the play as production, versus the play as literature</p> <p>Art of the critique: constructive criticism</p>	13	0	13
2	<p>Writing the Monologue or Monodrama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and peer evaluation of the one person play or monologue • Examination of works using monologue form • Creating dramatic action • Understanding the use of stage directions 	8	0	8



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3	<p>Writing Scenes with Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict • What creates conflict in a scene • Characterization <p>• Situation</p> <p>Opposing forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protagonist • Antagonist • Deciding agent <p>Creating characters and situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising action • Climax • Crisis • Denouement 	10	0	10
4	<p>The Ten-Minute Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form and structure • Play in production • Casting • Rewriting • Performance 	10	0	10
5	<p>Play Development Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's role • Designers' role • Dramaturgy and role of the dramaturge • Actor's role • The role of the audience 	8	0	8
6	<p>Commerce of Playwriting – from Page to Stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and the playwright • Contests, productions, readings, and writer's retreats • Copyright and protecting your work • The Dramatist's Guild – writer's union 	5	0	5
				54



OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 individual projects (e.g. crafting short plays and monologues);
- 2 written assignments (e.g. monologue, original plays, character creation).

METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 written assignment (e.g. monologues, scenes, and short plays);
- 2 peer review or critique of student work;
- 3 presentations;
- 4 practical examination (e.g. showcase of original work).

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
Working On a New Play: A Play Development Handbook for Actors, Directors, Designers, and Playwrights.	Required	Limelight Editions	2	print	Cohen, Edward	9780879101909	1997
Backwards & Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays	Required	Southern Illinois University Press		print	Ball, D.	9780809311101	2017
Take Ten I or II: New 10-Minute Plays	Required	Vintage		print	Lane, Eric	9780679772828	2003
Individual play scripts for reading and analysis.							