

ENGL-158: DRAMATIC LITERATURE: THE STAGE ON THE PAGE

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

02/07/2025

AS Approval

02/13/2025

BOT Approval

02/20/2025

COCI Approval

04/30/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

English (Master's Degree)

And/Or

Subject Code

ENGL - English

Course Number

158

Department

English (ENGL)

Division

Language and Developmental Studies (LADS)

Full Course Title

Dramatic Literature: The Stage on the Page

Short Title

Dram Lit: The Stage on the Pg

CB03 TOP Code

1501.00 - English

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NWE - NWE

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Updating common course numbering course change.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course explores plays and other dramatic works with an emphasis on how the written word becomes embodied on the stage. Figurative language, character development, and cultural contexts will be examined for how they inform performances and theatrical production. This class is frequently taught in tandem with Theater Arts 158, but it is a separate course.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Advisory Prerequisite(s)

Completion of ENGL-C1000 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C or appropriate placement.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

Yes

Units

1.00

Units Maximum

3.00

Lecture Hours

18.00

Lecture Hours Maximum

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

36

Outside of Class Hours Maximum

108

Total Contact Hours

18

Total Contact Hours Maximum

54

Total Student Hours

54

Total Student Hours Maximum

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent
Online with Proctored Exams	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary elements of plays and other dramatic works.
2. Demonstrate understanding of performance as an interpretive embodiment of dramatic text.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify elements and principles that make up plays and other dramatic productions.
2. Identify and analyze figurative language, literary devices, and other rhetorical features in dramatic works.
3. Recognize the role of acting and performance in society.
4. Discuss basic acting theory.
5. Examine dramatic works relative to their socio-historic contexts.
6. Interpret dramatic works with an emphasis on performance values.
7. Demonstrate basic theatrical performance skills.

Course Content

This course is designed to increase appreciation of drama and the performing arts by examining relationship between the written text and the performed work. Instructors will work with one or more dramatic works to examine the interplay between written texts and theatrical performance.

It does so by:

- 1) analyzing and interpreting dramatic works with a focus on diction, word choice, discourse communities, and other rhetorical features and literary devices; and
- 2) analyzing and interpreting dramatic works with a focus on physical and vocal presentation, character embodiment, emoting, and other elements of acting.

The Page: This aspect of the course will focus on the language, diction and literary elements featured in dramatic texts. Literary features may also include:

1. The primary elements of drama, e.g., character, plot, dialogue, action, etc.;
2. Elements of dramatic form: exposition, complication, crisis, falling action and denouement;
3. Dialogue and action each as vehicles for motivating plot;
4. Setting, character (motivation), action, imagery (motif), structure, style;
5. Dramatic conventions (e.g., use of the chorus, alienation effect) and audience role and response in various historical periods

The Stage: This aspect of the course will focus on performance and production elements which may also include:

1. Self-awareness
2. Sensory Awareness
3. Pronunciation and vocal rhythms
4. Audience and cultural contexts for productions
5. Understanding characters: motives and psychology
6. Embodying emotion
7. Stagecraft, blocking and movement.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Scene work; improvisation
Critique	Analysis of a theatrical production
Discussion	Discuss character motivations; identify literary devices
Lecture	-Presentation on figurative language and imagery –Stanislavsky Method – Dramatic structure

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards

E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	For example: test on primary elements of drama: character, plot, dialogue, action, staging
Essays/Papers	For example: An explication of images and symbols in a dramatic dialogue
Oral Presentations	For example: the role of "women" on the Elizabethan stage

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Students will complete specific reading assignments from course textbook and assigned dramatic works.

For example:

Read Chapter Two of the textbook regarding "Heightened Language." List ten different skills discussed in the chapter.

Read Act I Scene I of Richard III. Identify the primary metaphor Richard uses to describe the House of York.

Writing Assignments

1. Analyze the character of Jim Bono from August Wilson's *Fences*. Describe in particular how the character changes in his relationship to the protagonist Troy between Act 1 and Act 2.

2. Write a 3-page comparative analysis of Elizabethan and Modern acting. The essay should take into account historical context, artistic trends, and demands of the text as discussed in course readings.

Other Assignments

Performance:

1) Review Hamlet's seven soliloquies and how they demonstrate his evolution as a character over the course of the play. Select one soliloquy (except his "To be or Not to Be" monologue and prepare a performance of it.

2) Improvisation: Select one of the "emotions" listed on the board. Without telling the class what emotion you selected, devise a scene which performs this emotion.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Barton, Robert

Title

Acting Onstage and Off

Edition/Version

7th

Publisher

Cengage

Year

2015

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Jacobus, Lee

Title

Bedford Introduction to Drama

Edition/Version

8th

Publisher

Bedford/Macmillan

Year

2018

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Schechner, Richard

Title

Performance Studies: An Introduction

Edition/Version

4th

Publisher

Routledge

Year

2020

Course Codes (Admin Only)**ASSIST Update**

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000617642

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No