

THTR155 : Introduction to Playwriting

General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jeanette FarrSparfeld, Tobin
Course Code (CB01) :	THTR155
Course Title (CB02) :	Introduction to Playwriting
Department:	T ART
Proposal Start:	Fall 2025
TOP Code (CB03) :	(1007.00) Dramatic Arts
CIP Code:	(50.0501) Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General.
SAM Code (CB09) :	Non-Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	Yes
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000555213
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	02/26/2025
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	04/22/2025
Last Cyclical Review Date:	02/26/2025
Course Description and Course Note:	THTR 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. 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.
Justification:	Mandatory Revision Coding/Category Change Content Change
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit
Mode of Delivery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-PersonRemoteHybridOnline
Author:	No value
Course Family:	Directing, Playwriting, Management

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drama/Theater Arts
Alternate Discipline:	No value

Alternate Discipline:

No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

General Education and C-ID

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Transferability Status

Approved

GCC General Education Requirements

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area

Arts and Humanities

Status

Approved

Approval Date

09/02/2025

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07)

3

Maximum Credit Units (CB06)

3

Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours

54

Total Course Out-of-Class Hours

108

Total Student Learning Hours

162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

Credit Course.

Not Applicable.

Variable Credit Course

Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	3	6
Laboratory Hours	0	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks) 18

Hours per unit divisor 54

Course In-Class (Contact) Hours

Lecture 54

Laboratory 0

Studio 0

Total 54

Course Out-of-Class Hours

Lecture 108

Laboratory 0

Studio 0

Total 108

Time Commitment Notes for Students

Students are expected to read examples in literature and write plays to present in class

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Prerequisites, Corequisites, Recommended Corequisites, and Recommended Preparation

No Value

Entry Standards

Entry Standards	Description
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No value

No value

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course

Description

No value

No value

Specifications

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Lecture

Methods of Instruction

Discussion

Methods of Instruction

Multimedia

Methods of Instruction

Independent Study

Methods of Instruction

Collaborative Learning

Methods of Instruction

Demonstrations

Methods of Instruction

Presentations

Out of Class Assignments

- Individual projects (e.g. crafting short plays and monologues)
- Written assignments (e.g. monologue, original plays, character creation)

Methods of Evaluation

Rationale

Writing Assignment

Written assignment (e.g. monologues, scenes, and short plays)

Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

Peer review or critique of student work

Presentation (group or individual)

Presentations

Presentation (group or individual)

Practical examination (e.g. showcase of original work)

Textbook Rationale

These are classic texts
Other sources for study are in public domain or subscriptions from the school.
OER and handouts are also utilized

Textbooks

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

Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)

Description	Individual play scripts for reading and analysis.
Author	No value
Citation	No value
Online Resource(s)	No value

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives

Discuss plays and playwrights, their challenges, techniques, and relevance to social conditions of the past and present.

Apply the elements of play structure and skills used in crafting plays.

Illustrate the awareness and expression of theater arts design elements such as lights, sound, scenery, and costume.

Identify playwriting terminology such as stage directions, pause, beat, dialogue, monologue, and character.

Assess playwriting through critique and performance in front of an audience.

SLOs

Identify basic storytelling elements of dramatic writing.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

<i>ILOs</i> Core ILOs	Communicate clearly, ethically, and creatively; listen actively and engage respectfully with others; consider situational, cultural, and personal contexts within or across multiple modes of communication.
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<i>ENGL</i> Creative Writing	Demonstrate creative and critical thinking as it applies to writing and reading.
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<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - A.S. Degree Major (NIC)	analyze a play from script to performance
	identify theatre as a collaborative art form
	identify theatre terms and occupations

<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - Option 2 Acting - A.A. Degree Major	identify theatre terms and occupations
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<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - Option 1 General - A.A. Degree Major	identify theatre terms and occupations
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<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - Certificate (NIC)	identify theatre terms and occupations
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Demonstrate dramatic writing fundamentals.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

<i>ILOs</i> Core ILOs	Analyze and solve problems using critical, logical, and creative thinking; ask questions, pursue a line of inquiry, and derive conclusions; cultivate creativity that leads to innovative ideas.
	Communicate clearly, ethically, and creatively; listen actively and engage respectfully with others; consider situational, cultural, and personal contexts within or across multiple modes of communication.

<i>ENGL</i> Creative Writing	Demonstrate creative and critical thinking as it applies to writing and reading.
	Demonstrate increased knowledge the principles of Creative Writing.

<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - A.S. Degree Major (NIC)	analyze a play from script to performance
	apply skills and knowledge of theatre in preparation for transferability or vocation

Evaluate plays and apply critical response techniques to written work for the stage.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

<i>ILOs</i> Core ILOs	Analyze and solve problems using critical, logical, and creative thinking; ask questions, pursue a line of inquiry, and derive conclusions; cultivate creativity that leads to innovative ideas.
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<i>ENGL</i> Creative Writing	Demonstrate creative and critical thinking as it applies to writing and reading.
	Demonstrate increased knowledge the principles of Creative Writing.

<i>T ART</i> Theatre Arts - A.S. Degree Major (NIC)	analyze a play from script to performance
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Additional SLO Information

Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?

Yes

Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?

No

If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.

Addressing the use of A.I. in creative work

Create as a blooms taxonomy Student Learning Outcome in high level of "create"

SLO Evidence

No Value

Course Content

Lecture Content

Dramaturgy and Play Analysis (13 hours)

- Defining Dramaturgy
- Introduction to Aristotle
- Play structure
 - Plot, character, theme, diction, melody, spectacle
 - Additional approaches to structure in history from Greeks to present
- Playwriting and relation to social, political, and economic influences
 - Expressionism, modernism, theatre of the absurd
 - Playwright as "builder of plays"
 - The role of the dramaturge and analyzing a play as dramaturge
 - Personal expression in written work
- Types of plays
 - 10-minute play
 - One-act play
 - Full-length play
- Discussion of the play as production, versus the play as literature
- Art of the critique: constructive criticism

Writing the Monologue or Monodrama (8 hours)

- 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

Writing Scenes With Dialogue (10 hours)

- Conflict
- What creates conflict in a scene
- Characterization
- Situation
- Opposing forces
- Protagonist
- Antagonist
- Deciding agent

- Creating characters and situations
- Rising action
- Climax
- Crisis
- Denouement

The Ten-Minute Play (10 hours)

- Form and structure
- Play in production
- Casting
- Rewriting
- Performance

Play Development Process (8 hours)

- Director's role
- Designers' role
- Dramaturgy and role of the dramaturge
- Actor's role
- The role of the audience

Commerce of Playwriting – from Page to Stage (5 hours)

- Marketing and the playwright
- Contests, productions, readings, and writer's retreats
- Post-Play Discussion
- Copyright and protecting your work
- The Dramatist's Guild – writer's union

Total hours: 54

Additional Information

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Is it possible this course will have a material fee?

No Value

I have contacted my library liaison (<https://campusguides.glendale.edu/faculty/liasons>):

No Value

What term(s) will this course be offered?

No Value

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

No Value

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value

Resources

Did you contact your departmental library liaison?

Yes

If yes, who is your departmental library liaison?

Adina Lerner (Technology & Aviation, Visual & Performing Arts)

Did you contact the DEIA liaison?

Yes

Were there any DEIA changes made to this outline?

Yes

If yes, in what areas were these changes made:

- Course Content

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value