



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	THEA
Course Number:	105
Descriptive Title:	Playwriting
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Theatre
Course Disciplines:	Drama, Theater Arts, Theatre
Catalog Description:	In this course students learn the introductory skills necessary to create original one-act plays. Theme, character, plot, and dialogue are discussed and developed by means of writing exercises. Students gain a greater understanding of how to write for the stage through reading plays, analyzing play structure, peer feedback on writing assignments, participation in the play development process, understanding the business elements involved in writing for the stage professionally, and having original works performed in front of an audience.
Prerequisite:	English C1000
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	THEA-104 Dramatic Literature or THEA-103 Theatre Appreciation
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	propose
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	propose
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	Upon completion of this course students will be able to: 1. "Play Evaluation": Identify and discuss plays and playwrights in terms of style, structure, technique, and dramatic voice, and relate said work to the social and historical conditions of the craft of playmaking. 2. "Finding a Voice": Apply the elements of play structure, theme, character, dialogue, and plot used in crafting plays to their own work. 3. "Student Workshop": Investigate, analyze, and discuss student written work in a supportive environment. Students will evaluate and assess plays through critique and performance in front of a supportive, student-based audience.
Course Objectives:	1. Identify and implement correct play formatting technique. 2. Identify and analyze one-act and full-length plays for structural elements, such as: inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 3. Identify and analyze major themes in all plays. 4. Identify, analyze, and develop a character's biography, including objective, exposition/background, tactic examples, defining traits, and character growth. 5. Create and develop a one-act play plot outline. 6. Create and develop presentation on the inspiration for play idea. 7. Compose and revise original one-act play. 8. Cast and direct a reading of original one-act play. 9. Attend and evaluate live plays and productions. 10. Identify the major techniques involved in playwriting. 11. Assess and evaluate the student workshop process.
Major Topics:	I. Defining a Play (3 hours, lecture) A. What is a play? Play structure and The Poetics For Writers 1. Discuss mechanics vs. intuition, story vs. plot 2. Discuss genre, theme, tone, character 3. Breakdown a one-act vs. full-length play structure II. How To Read a Play Like a Writer (3 hours, lecture) A. Introduce the play texts for the course 1. Introduce major plays/playwrights, review formatting techniques 2. Read examples of one-act plays and discuss theme, content, genre, technique, character III. Finding Inspiration: Story & Character Building (3 hours, lecture) A. Discuss where ideas "come from" 1. Read topics on myth, real life events, ephemera, news stories as inspiration B. Discuss where character concepts "come from" 1. Create a character bank of six original characters (include traits, wants, problems, personality) IV. Parts of a Play: The Monologue (3 hours, lecture) A. What is a monologue? Why do they happen in drama? 1. Read examples of monologues and short monologue-based plays 2. Choose character from bank, draft a monologue to be read in class V. Parts of a Play: Dialogue and The Function of a Scene (3 hours, lecture) A. Creating scene structure: character/problem/tactic/turning point/climax/resolution B. Draft a scene between two characters from bank, to be read in class VI. Original Play Ideas (3 hours, lecture) A. Discuss and prepare Original Play Ideas 1. Brainstorm and choose an original idea for a one-act play 2. Present inspiration board and a pitch of the idea to class in short presentation VII. Parts of a Play: The Outline (5 hours, lecture) A. Why do we need outlines in dramatic writing?

	1. Write and revise outline 2. Draft monologue as a starting place for original play VIII. Parts of a Play: The Drafting Process (9 hours, lecture) A. Discuss the basic expectations and goals for a typical drafting process 1. Discuss maintaining action, character, conflict, tension in regards to drafting plays B. Write and revise an original one-act play 1. Select student scenes read aloud in class IX. Parts of a Play: The Development Process (3 hours, lecture) A. Discuss how new plays get made and the aspects of professional new play development 1. Examine role of director/actor/dramaturg/designer/audience for new plays 2. Assess how to "listen to feedback as an author" during a play reading 3. Learn about "the business" of playwriting (theatres, agents, contests) X. Parts of a Play: The Revision Process (4 hours, lecture) A. How to Revise a Play 1. Encourage re-writing, discuss rewrite tools (traditional, non-traditional) 2. Read revisions aloud in class XI. Parts of a Play: The Polish Draft (3 hours, lecture) A. Discuss the elements involved in a good "polish" draft 1. Discuss "polish" techniques, review grammar, spelling, typing errors, character B. Review student scripts for "submission ready" play format XII. Parts of a Play: The Workshop (12 hours, lecture) A. Students participate in final readings of plays in class workshop setting 1. Cast and read final one-act play as "staged reading" in class 2. Write feedback on reading/process, discuss/reflect on writing experience
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Develop and write an original one-act play for presentation to the class. Your play must be properly formatted and include stage directions, characters, and dialogue. The play must show the character's growth/arc over the course of the story. It must have a beginning, middle, and an end. The play must be cast with students, and rehearsed for reading/presentation to the class for peer review. The play must be submitted to the instructor for written review.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	"WORKING BACKWARDS": Choose a full-length play and present an in-class oral presentation that analyzes the play's theme, basic plot, character, and character growth from THE END of the play to THE BEGINNING. Using the "reverse method" explain how working backwards helped you gain a better understanding of the play.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	The student will research a published one-act play. Analyze the play in terms of plot, character, and structure. In a ten-minute presentation to the class explain how language, theatricality, genre, tone, time, relationship, and tension are used in the piece.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Presentation, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
If Other:	Writing one-act play for class presentation/reading.
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	Read original student work out loud in supportive class workshop setting.

Work Outside of Class:	Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Other (specify)
If Other:	Written work: play drafts and/or peer feedback, reading plays, watching plays live or in a recorded/video/online/audio format.
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Jensen, Julie. <i>Playwriting: Brief & Brilliant</i> , Smith & Krause, 2007 (discipline standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	G. Garrison, <i>A More Perfect Ten: Writing and Producing the Ten-Minute Play</i> , Focus, 2008 (discipline standard)
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite	Prerequisite
Category	sequential
Requisite course:	English C1000
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Knowledge of reading comprehension and basic writing and research skills ENGL C1000 - Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts. ENGL C1000 - Compose thesis-driven writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation. ENGL C1000 - Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work. ENGL C1000 - Recognize and revise sentence-level grammar and usage errors. ENGL C1000 - Demonstrate the ability to locate and utilize a variety of academic databases. ENGL C1000 - Demonstrate the ability to produce coherent, text-driven, timed in-class written work. ENGL C1000 - Utilize specific guidelines to format work, cite sources in the texts of essays, and compile Works Cited lists.
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). if applicable	
Requisite course:	THEA-104 THEA-103
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	This course involves reading college-level play texts and evaluating their dialogue, structure, characters, and other analytical techniques. It also involves writing about drama across an entire semester. THEA-104 - Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level play texts/performances/critical analysis. THEA-104 - Discuss and analyze in intense detail the development and historical impact of playwriting as an art form throughout history. THEA-104 - Write about and discuss scene work, character development, and theme in well-reasoned writing assignments. THEA 103 - Compare the literary and nonliterary aspects of playwriting, the process of playwriting to other writing forms and the quality of plays as literary works and produced formats. THEA 103 - Assess the qualities of "fine" playwriting and analyze plays in terms of dialogue.

	THEA 103 - Analyze the trends of modern drama and theatre and compare the historical trends of drama and theatre with those of today. THEA 103 - Assess the relationship of plays to current society, to the individual, to art, and to entertainment. THEA 103 - Evaluate and assess the difference between different genres or styles of theatrical productions and play texts.
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). if applicable	
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Ayla Harrison
Date:	10/24/2024
Original Board Approval Date:	04/28/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026