

EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

Principles of Dramatic Structure

Course Design
2017-2018

Course Information

Division Fine Arts
Course Number THC 203 (SUN# THE 2220)
Title Principles of Dramatic Structure
Credits 3
Developed by Steven Higginbotham
Lecture/Lab Ratio 3 Lecture/0 Lab

Transfer Status

ASU	NAU	UA
THF 220, Humanities, Arts & Design (HU), Literacy & Critical Inquiry (L)	TH 130	TAR 145

Activity Course No
CIP Code 50.0500
Assessment Mode Portfolio
Semester Taught Fall
GE Category None
Separate Lab No
Awareness Course No
Intensive Writing Course No

Prerequisites

THC 105 or instructor approval

Educational Value

A. To General Education

Principles of Dramatic Structure is a course which asks students to read and analyze a multitude theatrical plays from different genres and eras. While doing so, students will build requisite skills in reading comprehension, text analysis, and methods of effective storytelling. By emphasizing the creative investigation of the structure, style, themes, plot, characters, language, and context of each piece of dramatic literature, students will gain confidence in their ability to break down a text into its fundamental components for further analysis. Written assignments, classroom discussions, and group presentations will give students the opportunity to showcase their learning in different formats and nurture their expressive, creative, and communicative skills.

B. To Major/Program

"A play in a book is only the shadow of a play and not even a clear shadow of it... The printed script of a play is hardly more than an architect's blueprint of a house not yet built or [a house] built and destroyed. The color, the grace and levitation, the structural pattern in motion, the quick interplay of live beings, suspended like fitful lightening in a cloud, these things are the play, not the words on paper nor the thoughts and ideas of an author." – Tennessee Williams

This blueprint must be followed closely in order to provide a strong foundation on which an engaging story can be built. Students in this course will be practicing reading skills, with careful consideration of the intentionally-scripted dialogue and significant circumstances integrated into each story by the playwright. By uncovering the valuable details in each written text through a series of different analytical, artistic, and scholarly approaches, students will consider the best hybrid practices and methodologies for bringing each targeted script from the page to its incarnation on the stage before a live audience. In essence, this course encourages students to evaluate how ideas about characters, settings, and plots can be communicated most clearly and effectively to an audience at hand. These practices are essential for student actors, directors, designers, technicians, and scholars.

C. Other

In addition to this course's general education and associated program goals, *Principles of Dramatic Structure* fosters an increased appreciation for dramatic literature and the theatrical form as a reader, listener, participant, and/or spectator. The impulse towards telling and reenacting stories is universal – it has appeared in every human culture and society throughout history – and it is important to connect to this heritage in way which makes us more aware of the relatable experiences we share.

Description

This course focuses on the fundamental analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of dramatic literature for theatrical production. Emphasis will be placed on creatively investigating the structure, style, themes, plot, characters, language, and context of assigned plays from different genres and eras. Assigned readings and attendance at selected play productions will be required.

Supplies

None

Competencies and Performance Standards

- 1. Write a theoretical, historical, critical, or thematic research paper being careful to focus on the plays as pieces of literature to potential performance events.**

Learning objectives

What you will learn as you master the competency:

- Use MLA format throughout the research paper.
- Include at least three credible references in your research paper.
- Consider all aspects of the subject matter.
- Exemplify proper grammar, usage, punctuation, spelling, etc.

Performance Standards

Competence will be demonstrated:

- o in a printed research paper, the length of which will be determined by the instructor
- o in the learner's ability to openly discuss the research with the class

Performance will be satisfactory when:

- learner uses MLA format throughout the paper
- learner includes at least three credible references in the paper
- learner considers all aspects of the subject matter
- learner exemplifies proper grammar, usage, punctuation, spelling, etc.

2. Identify the main components of a play.

Learning objectives

What you will learn as you master the competency:

- a. Identify the introduction, analyzing its importance to the play.
- b. Identify the type of plot.
- c. Identify each character and his/her contribution to the play.
- d. Identify the resolution and the consequent meaning of the play.

Performance Standards

Competence will be demonstrated:

- in the learner's contribution to group discussion
- in a written analysis, if assigned by the instructor

Performance will be satisfactory when:

- learner identifies the introduction
- learner identifies the plot
- learner identifies the character(s)
- learner identifies the resolution and meaning of the play

3. Analyze the plays covered in class.

Learning objectives

What you will learn as you master the competency:

- a. Explain the introduction of the play, analyzing its significance to the overall plot.
- b. Summarize the plot.
- c. Analyze the characters.
- d. Explain the meaning of the play.
- e. Actively participate in group discussions about other aspects of the play.

Performance Standards

Competence will be demonstrated:

- in the learner's contribution to group discussion
- in a written analysis, if assigned by the instructor

Performance will be satisfactory when:

- learner explains the introduction to the play
- learner summarizes the plot
- learner analyzes the character(s)
- learner explains the resolution and meaning of the play

Types of Instruction

Classroom Presentation

Active/Discovery Learning

Group Discussion

Creative Project Development and Presentation

Critical Evaluation of Readings and Observed Performances

Grading Information***Grading Rationale***

55% Play Analyses (in varied formats including Written Papers, Creative Projects, and Classroom Presentations)

5% Comprehensive Portfolio of Play Analyses

20% Quizzes and Exams

10% Play Production Critiques

10% Classroom Participation and Attendance

Grading Scale

A 100-90%

B 89-80%

C 79-70%

D 69-60%

F 59% and below