

**UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA
 ESCUELA DE LENGUAS MODERNAS
 SECCION DE LITERATURA INGLESA**

Proposed Course Outline

Introduction to Drama	Pre-requisites: LM-1356
LM-1365	Co-requisites: LM-1366
Credits: 3	Academic Cycle: VI
Hours: 9 Class Work: 4 Out-of-Class Work: 5	Type: Course of study for the B.A. degree in English
Level: 3rd year	Low-tier virtual level (25% virtual work)

I. Course Description

This is a sixteen-week introductory course for third-year students. It explores the nature of dramatic literature and examines different subgenres and artistic movements in British and American plays.

This is the second literature course that students take in their major. It is related to the first one (LM-1356, Introduction to Narrative) in that it develops similar theoretical aspects of prose fiction within the context of drama. However, it aims at establishing the specific characteristics of theatre.

The course contributes to the general formation of the student in reinforcing and increasing his/her knowledge of English, as well as of the Anglo-Saxon cultures. It foments an independent, critical, and creative attitude toward the artistic expression of drama.

II. Course Objectives

1. General Objectives:

1. Have a general understanding of the development of dramatic literature.
2. Have a clear understanding of the major subgenres in drama.
3. Be able to critically analyze and interpret assigned dramatic works.
4. Have a better understanding of changing attitudes and values in Anglo-Saxon cultures.

2. Specific Objectives:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Characterize the basic subgenres in drama: comedy, melodrama, tragedy, composite forms. 2. Identify and explain the structural elements in a play: given circumstances, dialogue, dramatic action, character, theme, tempos, and mood. 3. Locate the figures of speech that produce humor: hyperbole, pun, irony, reversals, etc. 4. Provide examples of how speech and action identify characters. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Analyze the play in terms of introduction, incitement, rising action, major issues, falling action, and resolution. 6. Identify the major issues, forces, and deciding agent behind the protagonist's conflict. 7. Identify literary techniques: flashback, foreshadowing, and monologue (soliloquy, aside) 8. Analyze the cultural elements within the play. 9. Demonstrate understanding of character, dramatic action, and stage activity by producing and staging a scene from a play. |
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III. Contents

In the course of analyzing a minimum of one play per subgenre, the following skills and concepts will be covered:

- A. Introduction to dramatic theory
 - 1. Drama as an art form
 - 2. How to read a play
- B. Comedy
 - 1. Characteristics and types
 - 2. The given circumstances: environmental circumstances, previous action, polar attitudes
 - 3. The language of humor: physical, situational, and verbal humor
 - 4. Identification of character through speech mode
 - 5. The comic fool
- C. Melodrama
 - 1. Characteristics
 - 2. Dramatic action vs. stage activity
 - 3. Simple and complex characters
 - 4. Structural elements (introduction, incitement, rising action, major climax, falling action, resolution)
- D. Tragedy
 - 1. Tragedy vs. melodrama: differences in plot and character's psychology
 - 2. Monologues and character development
 - 3. Relations of imagery and symbolism to character and theme
- E. Composite form
 - 1. Characteristics of the play: theatre of the absurd, tragic-comedy, comic-tragedy, musical, etc.
 - 2. Character and society
- 5. Recognition of flashback, foreshadowing, and types of irony

IV. Methodology:

Class time will be used to discuss and analyze the reading material. The professor will lecture on the historic, social, and biographic background before introducing each play. The professor will guide the students in analyzing the general structure of the texts. The students will, consequently, prepare the readings beforehand so as to take part in the discussion. Individual participation will be evaluated according to the degree to which the student actually participates in the development of the class generating both questions and answers that enrich the overall learning experience.

Class time will also be used to hear or watch the plays enacted by professional actors whenever audio-visual resources are available. Students will be required to submit oral or written assignments, have an active part in producing and staging a scene from a play and attend at least one staged performance (if applicable).

V. Evaluation:

Quizzes	20%
Presentation of scene	10%
Two papers (2)	15%
Midterm	20%
Final	35%

Details of the different assignments will be specified in a separate document, not in the course outline. **Every student is subject to the evaluation rules of the University of Costa Rica.**

VI. Bibliography:

Cassady and Cassady. *An Introduction to Theatre and Drama*. National Textbook Company, 1987.

Cassady, Marshall. *The Book of Scenes for Acting Practice*. National Textbook Co., 1985.

Hodge, Francis. *Play Directing: Analysis, Communication and Style*. Third Edition, Prentice Hall, 1988.

Klaus, Gilber and Field, editors. *Stages of Drama: Classical to Contemporary Theatre*. Scott, Foresman and Company, 1981.

VII. Syllabus:

Introduction to dramatic theory:	2 weeks
Comedy:	3.5 weeks
Melodrama:	3.5 weeks
Tragedy:	4 weeks
Composite form:	2 weeks
Presentation of scenes:	1 week

VIII. Tentative Timetable

Mar 14	Introduction to dramatic theory: drama as art. COMEDY
17	Introduction to dramatic theory: reading a play / Comedy: Characteristics and types Assignment: Read LYS
21	Introduction to dramatic theory: Given circumstances
24	Comedy: Dialog Quiz 1: LYS
28	Comedy: Greek vs. contemporary Movie: Real Women
Ap 3	Dramatic action & Characters. Discussion RW
7	Melodrama: Characteristics/ Review Dramatic action and characters
10-16	Semana Santa Assignment: Read TLF
18	Discussion TLF Act 1 & 2 Assignment: TLF Act 3
21	Discussion TLF Act 3 Quiz 2: RW Assignment: Read ARITS Act 1 (for 28th)
25	Univ. Week/Discussion Language
28	Univ. Week/Melodrama: Movie "A Raisin in the Sun" Assignment: Read ARITS Act 2
May 2	Melodrama: Dramatic Action Assignment: Read ARITS Act 3
5	Quiz 2: T LF Melodrama: Characters.Discussion ARITS Act 3
9	Tragedy: Tragedy vs. melodrama Hand in essay 1
12	Tragedy: Greek tragedy Assignment: Read MED Act 1
16	Quiz 3: ARITS Discussion MED Act 1
19	Discussion on Medea and tragedy Assignment: Read MED Act2
15	Medea: Dramatic monologues
19	MIDTERM EXAM
23	Quiz 4: Medea Shakespearean tragedy Assignment: Read JC Act 1
26	Tragedy: Julius Caesar Assignment: Read JC Act 2
30	Tragedy: Julius Caesar Assignment: Read JC Act 3
Jun 2	Tragedy: Julius Caesar Assignment: Read JC Act 4
6	Tragedy: Julius Caesar Assignment: Read JC Act 5
9	Tragedy: Julius Caesar Assignment: Read ML
13	Quiz 4: Julius Caesar The Absurd:Harold Pinter
16	Discussion of ML Assignment: Read BQ (for Jun 23)
20	Theater in the 21 st Century
23	Discussion on BQ
27	Hand in essay 2 Work on presentations
30	Presentation of scenes
Jul 4	FINAL EXAM

(This proposed course timetable may be modified to adjust to the pace and needs of the course.)

IX. Additional Notes

1. NO late work will be accepted. Assignments have to be submitted in the FIRST ten minutes of the class WITHOUT any exception.
2. Papers delivered to the instructor's office or by email will be taken as LATE WORK and hence will not be graded.
3. No make-up evaluations will be given except in cases contemplated by the REGLAMENTO
4. Cell phones, pagers, and other kinds of electronic devices MUST be turned off during class time according to University regulations.
5. Guidelines for papers will be distributed ahead of time. Students who choose not to follow them do so at their own peril.
6. This course may involve a 25% of virtual activities, at the professor's discretion. If so, make sure to comply with the regulations, standards and requirements of the University of Costa Rica for your participation.
7. Professors do not have the obligation to send material covered in class to students, be it by e-mail or by any other electronic means.

Text Abbreviations:

LYS: *Lysistrata*

RW: *Real Women Have Curves*

MED: *Medea*

JC: *Julius Caesar*

TLF: *The Little Foxes*

ARITS: *A Raisin in the Sun*

ML: *Mountain Language*

BQ: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*