

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO PLAYWRITING
ENGL 2660 (formerly ENG 2660)

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

**Date Revised: Spring
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Catalog Course Description:

Writing of plays in combination with study of models and techniques.

Entry Level Standards:

Students should have knowledge of expository writing skills, the sort often derived from, but not exclusive to, freshman composition.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 1010 or consent of instructor

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Hall, Roger A. *Writing Your First Play*. Boston: Focal Press, 1998.
Hatcher, Jeffrey. *The Art and Craft of Playwriting*. Cincinnati: Story Press, 1996.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Reading: ACP, 7-20; WP, 15-24 Assignment(s): Drama and Theater; Stage Terminology
2	Reading: WP, 1-11; ACP, 21-56 Assignment(s): Premise and Action
3	Reading: ACP, 79-92; WP, 12-23 Assignment(s): Structure and Conflict
4	Reading: WP, 25-36 Assignment(s): Character
5	Reading: ACP, 133-153; WP, 38-51 Assignment(s): Dialogue
6	Reading: WP, 53-68 Assignment(s): Three-Character Conflict
7	Reading: ACP, 93-112 Assignment(s): Beginnings

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| 8 | Reading: ACP, 113-122
Assignment(s): Middles |
| 9 | Reading: ACP, 123-134
Assignment(s): Endings |
| 10 | Reading: WP, 70-86
Assignment(s): Writing from Life |
| 11 | Reading: WP, 89-102
Assignment(s): Writing from a Source |
| 12 | Reading: WP, 104-111
Assignment(s): Spontaneous Composition |
| 13 | Reading: WP, 105; 149-150; Handouts
Assignment(s): People, Places and Props |
| 14 | Reading: ACP, 154-174
Assignment(s): Script Analysis: Hedda Gabler |
| 15 | Reading: WP, 112-138
Assignment(s): Writing and Revising |
| 16 | Reading: WP, 141-155; ACP, 175-207
Assignment(s): Reading and Staging a Play; FInal Exam Period |

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Understand the techniques of imaginative and paradigmatic literature and the critical approaches that clarify its nature and meaning. I.5, III.2
- B. Appreciate the quality of imagination and the discipline required to produce stage plays. II.2, IV.2
- C. Develop and expand a sensitivity to and a thoughtful attitude toward life and its experiences. II.2, IV.2
- D. Strengthen the skills of writing and revising introduced in such courses as English Composition. I.3
- E. Strengthen the skills of critical reading and thinking. III.2

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Collaborate in teams for peer review of drafts to analyze audience and message, to develop and organize ideas, and to evaluate drafts as to effectiveness and clarity. *Communications Outcome, Personal Development Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
2. Write and analyze manuscripts using word processing software. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*

3. Listen to guest speakers who are published authors. *Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy*
4. Read assigned manuscripts and participate in class discussion. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
5. Develop research skills using library sources and the internet to find pertinent information. *Technological Literacy Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
6. Develop oral presentation skills to present individual or group information. *Communication Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
7. Create a one-act stage play in collaboration with Speech and Theatre Department with view toward eventual production. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*
8. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates, contributing to class discussion and projects, and acting in a professional manner while in class. *Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State' s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the tripartite structure and other features of a play. A, B
2. Develop a play from a premise and with attention to the six elements of Aristotle. A, B
3. Develop and build characters in a play. A, B
4. Write convincing dialogue that incorporates both exposition and action. A, B, D
5. Analyze and solve problems concerning location and props. A, B, E
6. Manipulate three-character conflicts. A, B, C, E
7. Focus on creating effective beginnings, middles, and endings in plays. A, B, C, D
8. Write a one-act script for the purpose of reading and production. A, B, C, D, E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

Fifty percent of the final grade will be based on tests and quizzes. Fifty percent of the final grade will be based on a portfolio of exercises and a completed stageplay.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

None

C. Field Work:

None

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

None

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance, promptness, and participation are essential to success in college courses. The general attendance policy of the College states that students must be present for at least 75 percent of scheduled class meetings in order to receive credit for the course; thus, students who miss 25 percent of class meetings will fail the course. Therefore, any student who must miss an excessive number of classes for any reason is advised to withdraw from the College under the "Mitigating Circumstances" provision as described in the PSTCC Catalog.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Any student found engaging in an act of academic dishonesty will be promptly dismissed from the course with a grade of F. Academic dishonesty includes the following:

Plagiarism--presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own;

Collusion--allowing other people to write, to revise, or to alter significantly the text of a paper that is supposed to be your work alone.