

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO PLAYWRITING
ENGL 2660**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Fall 2011

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 1020 or consent of instructor

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

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
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	Final Exam Period Assignment(s): Writing and Revising

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Understand the techniques of imaginative and paradigmatic literature and the critical approaches that clarify its nature and meaning. I.1, 4; II.1, 6
- B. Appreciate the quality of imagination and the discipline required to produce stage plays. I.1, 4; II.6
- C. Develop and expand a sensitivity to and a thoughtful attitude toward life and its experiences. II.2, 4, 5; III.3
- D. Strengthen the skills of writing and revising introduced in such courses as English Composition. I.1, 4, 5
- E. Strengthen the skills of critical reading and thinking. I.1, 4, 7; II.1, 2, 6

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

The student will 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. Create 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:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of the Learning Division, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president, Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/.