

Playwriting / Dramatic Literature

Syllabus

Koch

This year long course is both an English class and a Theatre Arts class. Since the University of California accepts this course as upper division English credit, there are certain requirements it must meet. The emphasis is on dramatic literature and playwriting, however, there will be other genres of literature and writing that will be explored. Correct use of grammar, mechanics, spelling, and vocabulary are always expected and will be addressed in this class.

Prerequisites: Open to juniors and seniors only.
Students must have taken Theatre I or Introduction to Theatre.
Open to students in the magnet only.
Accepted by the UC system as either Junior or Senior English credit.
Can be taken a second year for Theatre Arts credit.

General Requirements: Attend all of RSA's major theatrical productions, plus the Senior One Acts.
Review one film (approved by the teacher) and three non RSA plays.
Keep a Journal (idea book for creative writing).
Keep a note-taking book.
Drama Calendar.
Attendance and participation in class.
Late work will normally not be accepted.

A. **GRADES** will be determined based on the following areas:

1. **Participation:** Grades on regular and active attendance and participation in class activities. You will be docked 10 points per day if the absence is unexcused. Unexcused tardies will result in a 5 point deduction.
2. **Tests and quizzes.**
3. **Written Work:** This includes full-process essays, impromptu papers, play-written scenes and monologues.
4. **Homework** will be assigned. Coming to class unprepared will lower your grade.
5. **Projects:**

1ST SEMESTER:

A. Student's Original One-Act Play

This project is devoted to journal writing, writing exercises, improvisation workshops for dialogue, and student/teacher feedback. The culminating project is a one-act or full-length original student play to be shared with the class. Student playwrights are encouraged to produce their works, either fully or as a staged reading.

B. Collaborations

Students will work in pairs or small groups. They will write and share a play. Emphasis is on being a part of a writing team. Class time is most often used for writing or sharing and feedback. Teams explore and experiment until they find the writing process that best works for them.

2ND SEMESTER

A. Play Structure and Theatre History

Students will read plays, keep class notes, participate in discussion, write critical analyses, and take tests from the following theatre genres: Greek, Elizabethan, French Neoclassicism, Restoration, Realism, Naturalism, Didacticism, Absurdism, and Eclectic.

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B. Biography, Research, and Analysis

Each student will choose a playwright's work for in-depth analysis. Students will read at least three full length plays by one playwright, plus biographical and critical material dealing with the playwright's work. The project will culminate in a term paper and an oral presentation. This is a research project which will include note-cards, bibliography, footnotes, etc.

C. Screenwriting - Novel, Short Story, and Screenplay Adaptations

Students will study of piece of literature that is multi-genre such as *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. They will read the novel, the play, see the movie comparing and contrasting these works. They will also read a variety of short stories and choose one to adapt into a screenplay.

B. MAKE UP WORK FOR ABSENCES will be accepted for full credit for excused absences only. Students will be allowed one day for each day absent to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed and to make arrangements to make it up the first day upon returning to class. Do this before class starts. Make ups will be held during lunch or by arrangement.

C. CLASSROOM MATERIALS must be present at the start of class. Your agenda/planner is always required to write down homework assignments or to be used as your hall pass. A pencil or black or blue ink pen and notebook paper are always required. A "bound composition" notebook to be used as a journal and for note taking is also required.

D. NOTE TAKING is very important and students should keep accurate and complete notes on all lectures, discussions, films, slides, videos, etc. Tests will include material from these sources.

E. CHEATING, COPYING, AND PLAGARISM: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Do not cheat. Do not copy the work of others for this and other classes. Do not plagiarize from published/electronic sources. You will receive a zero on the assignments. You will receive a "U" in citizenship. You will be denied academic honors in this department. Your parents will be notified. You may be suspended.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

- Gum chewing is not allowed
- Radios and CD players and/or I-Pods, etc., are not allowed on campus.
- Sunflower seeds are not allowed.
- NO food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.