

El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Part II
Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Theatre Arts</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>DRAM 2351</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Introduction to Playwriting</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 : 0</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Develops basic skills and techniques of acting including increased sensory awareness, ensemble performing, character analysis, and script analysis. Emphasizes the mechanics of voice, body, emotion, and analysis as tools for the actor. Discusses playwriting terminology, styles, plot and dialogue development. Scene and Act development, and dramatic action as a driving force of a play. Provides a main focus on the playwright as storyteller and intellectual artist, while developing skills in practical word craft for the stage. Utilizes the writing of several scenes of varying lengths and the reading/critiquing of those scenes in class. Course culminates with a barebones script-in-hand presentation of final scenes. **(3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

A. Unit I. Playwriting Basics/Understanding the Creation of Dynamic Characters

1. Utilize various tools to develop and organize inspiration for characters.
2. Develop a character using the motif of “intentions and obstacles.”
3. Create characters with depth and individuality.
4. Write a 2-5 page scene utilizing character development.
5. Accept and give meaningful, constructive criticism.

B. Unit II. Plotting the Play/Creating Dramatic Action

1. Define and create plot through techniques of central theme and conflict/resolution.
2. Create a dramatic arc and dramatic action through conflict of characters.
3. Identify and utilize linear action as opposed to episodic action.
4. Write a scene toward a known conclusion as opposed to an unknown ending.
5. Write a 5-10 page scene exemplifying plot in its various forms.

C. Unit III. Individuation of Character as He/ She Relates to Plot

1. Create characters with distinct voice, which underlines character identifiers.

2. Use the monologue as a tool of internal character development.
3. Develop beginning skills which allow the characters to grow organically out of a plot.
4. Tell a story through the characters rather than about them.
5. Write a 10-20 page scene utilizing 3-5 characters.

D. Unit IV. Synthesizing Plot and Characters into a Harmonious Whole

1. Develop rewriting skills based on observations made in rehearsal.
2. Use in class critiques as the springboard for identifying options for dramatic development.
3. Listen intelligently to the verbal and unspoken suggestions of actors and production assistants.
4. Use rehearsals to identify problems and change the script
5. Realize the ongoing and unending process of play development through rewrites and in rehearsal work

III. Evaluation

Students will write three separate scenes of varying length and complexity. In addition, students will serve as mentors to another writer in the class and will assist in the writing, critique, and rewriting process. A playwright critique comparing the works of two published authors will be assigned. A playwright's review of three different EPCC productions will be written.

Two Character Scene	100
Three Character Scene	100
One Act Play	200
Production of One Act Play	100
Playwriting Mentorship	100
Playwright Critique (Ibsen or Lorca)	100
EPCC Production #1 critique	100
EPCC Production #2 critique	100
EPCC Pproduction #3 critique	100
TOTAL	1000 points

The semester grade scale will be:

A= 1000-900, B= 899-800, C= 799-700, D= 699-600, F= below 599

IV. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act ADA)

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112

(831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Tm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A 125 (831-7024).

V. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institution of higher education for the first time during fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.

VI. Title IX and Sex Discrimination

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.