

**College of Micronesia – FSM
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941**

Course Outline Cover Page

Introduction to Drama
Course Title

EN 203
Department & Number

Course Description:

This course introduces students to various types of dramatic literature, from the ancient Greek dramas to contemporary Eastern and Western Theatre. Its purpose is to familiarize students with not only the history and theoretical aspects of theatre, but also its practical manifestations through playwriting, acting, directing, stage production and theatre management.

Course Prepared by: Division of Languages and Literature **State:** National

	Hours per Week		No. of Weeks		Total Hours		Semester Credits	
Lecture	3	x	16	x	48	=	3	
Laboratory	_____	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____	
Workshop	_____	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____	
Total Semester Credits								3

Purpose of Course:

Degree Requirement	_____
Degree Elective	X
Certificate	_____
Remedial	_____
Other (workshop)	_____

Prerequisite Course(s): EN 110, or permission from Instructor

Signature, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee

Date Approved by Committee

Signature, President, COM-FSM

Date Approved by President

EN203 Introduction to Drama

(3 credits)

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I. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Program Learning Outcomes, Humanities: Students will be able to

Demonstrate an ability for independent thought and expression in the following areas: theatre history, dramatic theory, theatre production, dramatic literature, stage production, and management.

General Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

1. Define and identify the different periods of theatre history.
2. Define, identify, and analyze a selection of plays using basic theatre terminology associated with the different types of theatre.
3. Define, identify, and apply dramatic literary critical theory and methods.
4. Identify historical, cultural, and biographical contexts for selected plays and their authors.
5. Write a short play, act out and/or do dramatic readings from scenes of selected plays, and apply theatrical production techniques learned.

Specific Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

- 1.1 Identify and discuss the origins and development of drama.
- 1.2 Identify and discuss the following theatre periods: Greek, Medieval, Elizabethan, Italian Commedia dell'arte, Spanish Golden Age, French Neoclassicism, 19th Century Romanticism, Modern European, British and American. Post-modernist Theatre, and Non-Western Theatre.
- 1.3 Study plays and dramatic productions from a wide range of world cultures and identify performance styles.
- 2.1 Identify and use theatre terminology to describe such terms as tragedy, comedy, tragic-comedy, farce, voice, movement, style, and plot.
- 3.1 Identify and define different theatre genres, styles and theatre spaces.

- 3.2 Analyze and discuss the principles of dramatic structure and theatre criticism.
- 3.3 Identify and apply basic elements of playwriting: plot, character, setting, point of view, tone, mood, and theme.
- 4.1 Identify and discuss relevant historical, cultural and contextual information, as well as dramatists' biographical data for the selected plays in the course.
- 5.1 Employ voice and movement skills learned in the course.
- 5.2 Conduct a small theatre production in either or a combination of dramatic readings, scenes from different full-length plays, or an original one-act play, and critique the dramatic performance of classmates.
- 5.3 Identify and describe elements of production, including lighting, publicity, management (box office), sets, props, and sound effects.

II. COURSE CONTENT:

The course covers different aspects of theatre: History, Dramatic Theory & Criticism, and Production. At the instructor's discretion it may also be organized in a way that these three elements are covered together throughout the course.

1. **History:** An historical anthology that includes a wide selection of plays and authors, encompassing works of different periods of theatre history as well as cultures (both Western and Eastern) will be studied. Students will be introduced to plays from a selection of authors from varying historical periods, as well as geographical and cultural areas.
2. **Dramatic Theory & Criticism:** The course will give a critical sense of the development of drama, starting with Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* followed by the Medieval plays, Spanish *autosacramentales*, and public theatre of Calderon and Lope de Vega, Shakespeare Moliere, Ibsen, George Bernard Shaw, Bertolt Brecht, Samuel Beckett and American playwrights Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, and other selected dramatists. Non-Western Theatre such as Pacific Island plays, Noh Drama, Shadow Plays, and the Beijing Opera will also be discussed.
3. **Production:** The course will give the students a sense of the production aspects of theatre: playwriting, play direction, acting, lighting/set design, and stage management. Videos may be used to appreciate dramatic performance since access to live plays is severely limited. Students will, at the end of the course, either do dramatic readings of soliloquies or act out scenes from selected plays, or produce a one-act play, or a combination of each of these practical aspects of theatre.

III. TEXTBOOK

Cohen, Robert. ***Theatre: Brief Version***. McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences Languages; 6th (or current) edition, 2002. **ISBN-10:** 0072564911, **ISBN-13:** 978-0072564914

IV. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

NONE

V. REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Brockett, Oscar. ***World Drama*** Fort Worth TX: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1984. 644 pages **ISBN:** 0030576687

Everyman and Other Miracle and Morality Plays. New York: Dover Publications, 1995. 117 pages. ISBN 0-486-28726-2.

Kneubuhl, Victoria Nalani. ***Island Plays***. Honolulu:: University of Hawaii Press, 2002. 227 pages. **ISBN:** 9-780824-825393

Miller, Jordan. ***The Heath Introduction to Drama***. 4th ed. Toronto: D.C. Heath & Co., 1992 **ISBN:** 0669244112

Pickering, Jerry V., ed. ***A Treasury of Drama***, New York; West Publishing Co., 1975. 515 pages. **ISBN:** 0-8299-0042-X.

Watson, E. Bradlee & Pressey, Benfield, eds. ***Contemporary Drama***, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956. 341 pages. **ISBN:** 684-41477-5

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL COST

NONE

VII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures, guest lecturers, group discussion, individual and/or group oral presentations, small-group work, reading and written assignments, participation in discussions

VIII. Evaluation

Credit-by-Examination – none

The instructor will create measurement instruments that demonstrate competency in the stated objectives, including dramatic recitations, individual or group oral presentations,

play presentations, participation in critiques and discussions, quizzes, exercises; and examinations, which could include multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay questions.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY

The COM-FSM attendance policy applies to this course.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The COM-FSM academic honesty policy applies to this course