

Louisiana Delta Community College
Academic Affairs Master Syllabus
Date Approved or Revised: Fall 2006

Course Name: Introduction to Drama and Poetry

Course Number: ENGL 215

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours:

Credit Hours: 3

Textbook, Author, and Publisher:

Course Description: The course is designed to develop in students and ability to understand, analyze and evaluate drama and poetry. The first half of the course focuses on drama and introduces the student to plays from the Greek classics through the twentieth century. The second half of the course emphasizes poetry that reflects different forms, subjects, themes, and points of view. Since reading is a major focus of this course, students will practice a variety of interrelated reading and interpretative skills. Students' writing should move beyond paraphrasing into analysis, interpretation and argumentation.

Prerequisites: Completion of freshman composition courses.

Co-requisites: NONE

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Introductory literature courses must serve the needs of prospective English majors and minors, liberal arts majors, and students majoring in more scientific or technical fields. The purpose of English 215 is to develop in students and ability to understand analyze, and evaluate drama and poetry. Historical background, literary history and biography will not be emphasized. Since reading is a major focus of this course, students will practice a variety of interrelated reading and interpretive skills. The emphasis will be on analyzing the technique, style, and values of the various writers. Students should write frequently to communicate their critical and interpretive insights about the literary texts. Their writing should move beyond merely retelling a story into analysis, interpretation and argumentation.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to analyze plays and poems and be able: to paraphrase passages accurately; to read closely in order to explicate the literal and figurative meaning of passages; to identify larger themes, structures, and patterns in a literary work as a whole; to being to relate a literary work to relevant discursive contexts, such as generic conventions and literary traditions; and, to begin to understand the larger cultural, contexts of a literary work, both diachronic and synchronic.

Assessment Measures:

Type of Assessment

Students are expected to write clear, grammatical, idiomatic English. Their previous preparation in composition applies here. Students are expected to back up assertions with evidence from the text that provides justification. Students should be able to smoothly incorporate short quoted passages into essays and to paraphrase accurately. They must be able to explain how the quoted or paraphrased material proves the point; analysis is essential.

Assessment items for the course:

Group work

Journal writing

Essays

Midterm Exam

Final Exam