

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Division of Communication and Arts

Course Number and Title

DRAM 2303 Playwriting I

Catalogue Description: Introduction to the art and craft of writing plays. Through written exercises, readings and discussions, students write their own scenes and begin work on short plays. Covers dialogue, character, relationships, plots, and conflict. Designed for those interested in writing for the stage or screen.

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hour/Contact Hours/Load Hours: 3

Target Audience/Transferability:

This course is designed to introduce playwriting to students that are interested in Drama and English courses. DRAM 2303 may transfer to other institutions to fulfill a humanities requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critically evaluate various theatrical structures of playwriting
2. Comprehend and describe pacing and rhythm in plays and scenes
3. Create believable characters through dialogue, relationship and super objective
4. Demonstrate understanding of playwriting vocabulary
5. Produce at least 3 short plays and/or screenplay
6. Critique, revise, and edit works in progress
7. Identify steps for writing, rewriting, reading, workshopping and producing plays
8. Critically evaluate a live play using the skills and tools of the playwright.

Topics

Plot, character, anticipation, dialogue, dramatic action, play format and structure, screenwriting vs. playwriting, writing for musicals, play development, submission process, critical feedback, revising plays, reading play examples.

Forms of Assessment

1. A ten-minute play, written and revised after feedback
2. A short play or one-act/short film script, written and revised after feedback
3. A short one-character play, written and revised after feedback
4. A final script presentation with audience, written and revised after feedback