

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 262**  
**Drama of the Western World**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 262 Drama of the Western World
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2018**
- E. Sponsoring Department: English
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3           Lecture: 3  
  Laboratory: 0  
  Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and  
Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay [susan.arvay@raritanval.edu](mailto:susan.arvay@raritanval.edu);  
Patrice Marks [patrice.marks@raritanval.edu](mailto:patrice.marks@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

**Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I** This course is a study of the literature of the Western theater from the time of the ancient Greeks to the present. Students examine forms of dramatic expression through reading plays and viewing films. In addition to the literary aspects of plays, Drama of the Western World also deals with the historical development of the theater and examines plays in both a contemporary context and within the social context of their time.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. Drama of the Western World provides students with the opportunity to study an important literary genre. It is a course typically featured in college English

departments and meets RVCC's general education goals as well as those of the English Department's Associate of Arts degree in English. The course transfers to a four-year program as an elective, a general education elective, or a free elective.

- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature general education course.

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature.
- C. This course meets a genre-based Category B elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content** (Authors and plays in parentheses are possibilities for study.)

- A. Elements of drama
- B. Drama on the page, stage and screen
- C. Greek drama (Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes)
- D. Medieval drama (Miracle, mystery and morality plays; examples include *Everyman*, *The Second Shepherd's Play*, *Dulcitus*)
- E. English Renaissance drama (Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, William Shakespeare)
- F. Late-Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century drama (Moliere, William Congreve, Richard Sheridan)
- G. Nineteenth-century drama (Henrik Ibsen, August Strindberg, Oscar Wilde, Anton Chekhov)
- H. Drama in the Early to Mid-Twentieth Century (Susan Glaspell, Luigi Pirandello, Eugene O'Neill, Bertolt Brecht, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Lorraine Hansberry)
- I. Contemporary drama (Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, August Wilson, Tony Kushner, Suzan-Lori Parks, John Patrick Shanley)

#### **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to

1. Analyze plays within their literary, historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing ( GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, \*)

2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing using appropriate literary terminology (GE-NJ 1, \*)
3. Distinguish among and assess commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing dramatic works (GE-NJ 6, \*)

(\*Embedded critical thinking)

**B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to

1. Explain key characteristics of the historical periods of Western drama
2. Appraise cultural values reflected in dramatic works
3. Analyze plays in a contemporary context as well in their historical context

**C. Assessment Instruments:**

1. exams
2. in-class formal and informal writing
3. demonstrations or presentations
4. essays
5. journals
6. research papers
7. group projects
8. class participation

**VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Exams
- B. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar, mechanics and the finer points of style
- C. demonstrations or presentations
- D. projects
- E. class participation

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study

## **VIII. Texts and Materials**

Possible textbooks:

- A. Lee A. Jacobus, ed. *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama*, New York: Bedford St. Martins, current edition.
- B. Ellen Gainor, Stanton B. Garner, Jr. and Martin Puchner, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Drama, Shorter Edition*, current edition.
- C. Instructors may also elect to use copies of individual plays.

(Please Note: This course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **IX. Resources**

- A. Classroom with Internet access
- B. DVDs of individual plays

## **X. Honors Options**

There is no Honors Option for this course