Course Discipline and Number: ENGL 256   **Year: 2019-2020**
Course Title: Playwriting   **Credit Hours: 3**

Attendance Policy: To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.

Services for Students with Disabilities: It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.

Course Description
Creative Writing Course: Students focus on critical elements of playwriting, and write a short play of at least 20 pages, which then is refined, edited, and work-shopped. Various techniques are used, including reading of dramatic texts, improvisation, scenarios, and group exploration. Emphasis is on class participation and in-class exercises. Outside work includes seeing two professional plays and writing short papers based on critical elements therein. ENGL 256 fulfills the SUNY The Arts requirement. Prerequisites: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment ENGL 100 if required by placement testing; RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall semester.

Course Context/Audience
This course is intended for students in the Creative Writing A.A. degree and Certificate programs as well as for students who are interested in transferring to a theatre program. It can be taken to satisfy a liberal arts, a humanities or an unrestricted elective requirement in most degree programs.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations
Writing: WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.
Math: M0 Course requires very little or no math.
Reading: R4 Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

Course Goals
Students will learn the mechanics and techniques of creating short dramatic texts. In addition, they will gain an understanding of how texts are refined and put through a workshop process and presented onstage.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Play analysis - structure and form	25%
Play analysis - Aristotle's six elements	25%
Writing assignments	25%

Work-shopping – reading, analysis, criticism	25%

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

Critical Thinking Outcomes	How does the course address Critical Thinking (include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used.)
➢ Students will be able to develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➢ Students will be able to gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➢ Students will be able to reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➢ Students will be able to consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.	Students will be required to communicate their themes and ideas of their work through their written work and be able to discuss the elements of their work effectively. Drawing on their own life experiences and presented play structure and dynamics, students discuss, critique and support each other's work. In the process, students develop the ability to internalize and analyze constructive criticism.

Social/Global Awareness Outcomes	How does the course address Social/Global Awareness (include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used)
➢ Students will begin to understand how their lives shape and are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➢ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic, and environmental consequences.	The course work encourages students to consider themselves as writers, speakers, readers, and overall participants in the process of cultural definition and transformation as they develop their creative writing process, write plays, attend and discuss live theatre performances, and study the work of selected playwrights.

Instructional Methods
Lecture, question/answer, group discussions focusing on analysis, problem solving, and perspective; research papers demonstrating viewpoints of professional works presented on stage; video presentations of professional stage works; guest speakers.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Final project	40%
Class participation	30%

Two short papers	30%

Text(s)
Recommended

Heath, Malcolm. <u>Aristotle - Poetics</u>. London: Penguin Group, 1997.

Hatcher, Jeffrey. <u>The Art and Craft of Playwriting</u>. Cincinnati, OH: Story Press, 2000.

Bibliography
Ball, David. <u>Backwards and Forwards</u>. So. Ill. Univ Press, 1998.

Smiley, Sam. <u>Playwriting: Structure of an Action</u>. Prentice Hall College Div., 1971.

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual Various videos illustrating theatrical writing processes including clips from popular movies and documentaries
Electronic Various resources designed for playwrights and theatrical personnel. Many databases, including Proquest and the Literature Resource Center, should be of use to students in this course
Other Professional theatrical guest speaker(s)