

**Jackson College**  
**English 247: Poetry and Drama**

- Instructor:** Thomas W. Howard
- Location:** Programs Building, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
- Day & Time:** Thursday 12:50 - 3:44 PM
- Course Text:** *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama* by Lee Jacobus, 7th edition  
*Poetry: An Introduction* by Michael Meyer, 7th edition

- Course Materials:**
1. pens
  2. notepad for notes and writing
  3. two-pocket folder

**Course Description:**

Students are introduced to lyric and dramatic genres. This course emphasizes understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of poetry and theater as language performances and literary forms. Selections for study are chosen from English and American literature as well as literatures in translation.

Prerequisite: ENG 131.

**General Education Outcomes:**

GEO 6: Understanding and appreciating aesthetic experience and artistic creativity  
Learners will demonstrate proficiency:

- Explaining historical, cultural, and social context of selected works of Western art, music, literature.
- Applying methods of analysis and interpretation, using discipline-specific language.
- Initiating and sustaining a discussion of the creative contexts within which artists and authors work.
- Articulating personal critique of artistic works based on aesthetic standards.
- Approaching works of creative expression with openness and interest; appreciating the world of creative imagination as a form of knowledge.

GEO 7: Appreciating diversity. Learners will demonstrate proficiency:

- Articulating and evaluating literary and artistic contributions of individuals from groups with which they identify.
- Articulating and evaluating the cultural contributions of individuals from groups other than one's own, recognizing and evaluating stereotypes.
- Identifying examples of ethnocentrism, oppression, and dominant group privilege; challenging barriers to understanding diversity; articulating benefits of interacting with individuals from groups other than one's own.
- Relating personal experiences that have led to embracing diversity.

### Major Assignments

- Literary Analysis:** You will write two papers of approximately 500 words in this class. One paper will analyze a play that we read in class, the other will analyze a poem. Throughout the class, we will go over different strategies to analyze these types of literature, so these analysis essays will be your opportunity to use those skills on your own.
- Examinations:** You will take two examinations throughout the course at the end of each major unit. These will be content-based to ensure that you have read the material and understand the skills that we have been discussing in the class. It will likely be a mixture of multiple choice, true or false, and written-response questions.
- Group Projects:** You will work on two group projects, one for each major unit. For the drama unit, you will perform a scene (approximately 5-10 minutes). This does not need to be memorized, but you should be familiar with the scene so that you are not constantly looking down at the text. In the poetry unit, you will each select and memorize a poem, but then explain how they all go together in your group.
- Participation:** As an English literature classes, a majority of the “work” done in class is via discussion. This is a time when we can all reflect on the assigned reading and explore different ideas. I expect *everyone* to contribute (your ideas are always valuable, even if you don’t think so). This includes any group work or independent in-class assignments that occur during the semester—just contribute in class and you will do well on this grade.

### Grading Procedure:

Literary Analysis Essays	(2 @ 100)	200 points	20%
Examinations	(2 @ 100)	200 points	20%
Group Projects	(2 @ 100)	200 points	20%
Participation & Miscellaneous		400 points	40%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### JC Standardized Grading Scale:

4.0 = 95-100	(A)
3.5 = 89-94	(B+)
3.0 = 84-88	(B)
2.5 = 78-83	(C+)
2.0 = 72-77	(C)
1.5 = 66-71	(D+)
1.0 = 60-65	(D)
0.5 = 55-59	(D-)
0.0 = 0-54	

**The Incomplete Grade:**

In accordance with JC policy, an Incomplete or “I” grade is only issued to students who have demonstrated good standing in the class and hold a passing grade at the time of an extenuating circumstance that precludes completion of the class. Documentation validating the circumstance may be required.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

JC has an academic honesty policy, which will be adhered to in this class. In essence, the policy requires that *all work must be done by the student whose name it bears*. The full policy can be accessed at [www.jccmi.edu/policies/Academics/](http://www.jccmi.edu/policies/Academics/)

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and presenting them as if it is your own. We will discuss how to avoid plagiarism throughout the course, and it is expected that you know this and practice it throughout your writing. ***Any violation will likely earn you a zero on the assignment***, but it may include an “F” in the course and referral to the Office of the Academic Dean for further disciplinary action.

**Missed/Late Assignments**

In general, you cannot submit late assignments because the course does not allow for it. Extenuating circumstances notwithstanding, you cannot make up any quizzes that you miss. Similarly, your research paper will be due the last week of class, so it is impossible to submit it late.

**Tentative Calendar:**

*\*NOTE: supplementary reading material may be supplied throughout the course*

Week 1 - 01.19	Introduction to Course / Greco-Roman Drama READ: Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (pp. 45-66)
Week 2 - 01.26	Medieval Drama DUE: read <i>Drama</i> , pp. 1-22; 122-32 DUE: skim <i>Drama</i> , pp. 30-40; 104-11 READ: <i>Everyman</i> (pp. 135-45)
Week 3 - 02.02	TBA
Week 4 - 02.09	Renaissance Drama DUE: <i>Drama</i> , pp. 146-58 READ: Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> (pp. 164-217)
Week 5 - 02.16	17th and 18th Century Drama DUE: <i>Drama</i> , pp. 300-12 READ: Molière, <i>Tartuffe</i> (pp. 317-41)

Week 6 - 02.23                      19th Century Drama  
DUE: *Drama*, pp. 361-72  
READ: Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard* (pp. 468-89)

**SPRING BREAK (February 26 - March 5)**

Week 7 - 03.09                      Early- and Mid-20th Century Drama  
DUE: *Drama*, pp. 494-507  
READ: Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (pp. 672-708)

Week 8 - 03.16                      Contemporary Drama  
DUE: *Drama*, pp. 812-29  
READ: August Wilson, *Fences* (pp. 893-921)

Week 9 - 03.23                      Drama Exam & Group Scene Presentation  
DUE: Drama Literary Analysis Essay

Week 10 - 03.30                      Begin Poetry (TBA)

Week 11 - 04.06                      TBA

Week 12 - 04.13                      TBA

Week 13 - 04.20                      TBA

Week 14 - 04.27                      TBA

Week 15 - 05.04                      Poetry Exam & Group Poem Presentation  
DUE: Poetry Literary Analysis Essay

*The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this syllabus as needed.*