

SYLLABUS  
PART I  
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
THE 131S TEXT INTERPRETATION  
3 CREDIT HOURS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Interpretation of dramatic texts that represent a variety of genres and characterizations. Lab fee.

**COURSE GOALS**

The student will:

Bloom's Level		Gen Ed Outcomes
2	1. Discuss the elements such as plot, character or theme considered in the process of interpretation.	1, 2, 6
4	2. Analyze the various perspectives from which dramatic text might be interpreted by the director, actor, design and production personnel.	1, 6
2	3. Identify universal themes and their nuances and trace their development from Greek comedy and tragedy to modern genres.	1, 2, 6
3	4. Determine the extent to which understanding a character controls or influences interpretation.	1, 2, 6
4	5. Compare the imagery of the surreal and the "imaginary" with "holding the mirror up to nature."	1, 2, 6
5	6. Evaluate various methods of interpretation including identifying dramatic conflict hamartia (if it exists), irony, symbolism, and biographical influence.	1, 2, 6

**CORE VALUES**

The Core Values are a set of principles that guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

1. Origin and Elements of Drama
2. General Guidelines for Interpreting Dramatic Conventions
3. Characterization
4. Ambiguity in Drama
5. Irony
  - a. Coincidence
  - b. Reversal
  - c. Déjà vu
  - d. Dramatic Irony
6. Genre Criticism
  - a. Tragicomedy and Other Mélanges
  - b. Theater of the Absurd
  - c. Surrealism
  - d. Black Humor
  - e. Farce
7. Existentialism (Verfremdungseffekt)