

University of Florida - College of the Arts - School of Theatre and Dance

**TPP 3650: Section # 3518/ FALL 2018 Syllabus****Script Analysis****M-W-F Period 3 (9:35 AM-10:25 PM) – FAC, Rm. 0120**

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Office Hours: MWF 12:50-1:40 & Tues. and Thurs. afternoons **by appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is required for all students majoring in theatre and is designed to teach the technical and theoretical skills of script analysis using a formalist approach. The course offers general guidelines for reading and thinking about plays and understanding the basic potentials of a play's construction.

**OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOME:** Students who attend classes regularly and seriously apply themselves in each assignment will learn how to search for playable dramatic values that reveal a central unifying pattern, which informs or shapes a play from the inside and coordinates all of its parts. Playable dramatic values are those features that energize actors, directors, and designers in their work. To accomplish its goal, formalist analysis uses a traditional system of classifications to break up a play into its parts in order to understand their nature and relationship. Students are also introduced to a range of other forms of analysis including: textual, historical and biographical, moral and philosophical, psychological, mythological and archetypal, feminist, structuralism and post-structuralism, Marxist and rhetorical.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Thomas, James. *Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers: 5th Edition*. (Boston: Focal Press, 2013). **ISBN-10:** 0415663253/ **ISBN-13:** 978-0415663250

**PLAYS:** *Othello, Heartbreak House, Angels in America; Pt. 1, The America Play*

**GRADING:** Grading will be based on the following elements spanning the semester, for a total of 800 possible points:

1. Attendance	100 pts.
2. Play Elements and Formalist Exam	50 pts.
3. Given Circumstances Project	75 pts.
4. Background/ Internal-External Exam	100 pts.
5. Classical Structural Graph	75 pts.
6. Modern French Scenic Breakdown	50 pts.
7. Character Exam	50 pts.
8. Idea & Dialogue Exam	100 pts.
9. Postmodern Project	50 pts.
10. Live Performance analysis ( <i>at least 2@ 25 each</i> )	50 pts.
11. Action Analysis (Final Exam)	100 pts.
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>800 pts</b>

Based on this point system, final grades will be awarded as follows at time final grades are due:

<b>750-800 = A</b>	<b>725-749=A-</b>	<b>700-724 = B+</b>
<b>675-699 = B</b>	<b>660-674=B-</b>	<b>645-659 = C+</b>
<b>630-644 = C</b>	<b>615-629=C-</b>	<b>600-614 = D+</b>
<b>585-599 = D</b>	<b>570-584=D-</b>	<b>Below 569 = E</b>

Link to the web page on grade point credits: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Attendance in each scheduled class is essential for success. University policy allows undergraduates students three (3) absences without penalty (these include illness and personal needs). **After three absences from this course, 15 points will be deducted from your attendance point totals, which may result in negative points deducted for the final grading process!** Please make effort to be on time for each scheduled class, as the instructor is not required to explain missed information presented during classes. The course focuses on preparation for the production of live theatre. Therefore, being present in class is an important aspect of both the teaching and learning process in this course. Students with legitimate and official reasons for missing classes must present official notice form legitimate sources (doctors, university coaches of sponsors, etc.) before or within a week of the absence.

**REQUIRED VIEWINGS:** Attendance at live theatre productions is required for all students enrolled in this course. This term's coupon productions will include: *The Wolves* (**Please see this production in the first three weeks of the run at the HIPPI**); *Between Riverside and Crazy*; *Hairspray*. Your attendance at these productions will be important and a production analysis paper will be required. Each production analysis will be worth 25 points and 50 points (for two separate analysis papers) are factored into your final grade. Only two of the three production papers must be turned in. Students desiring extra credit or additional points may do analysis papers for all three productions. All productions may be discussed in class on the day that analysis is due. You are encouraged to attend OUTSIDE performances at the Hippodrome State Theatre, Gainesville Community Theatre, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, and productions presented by Florida Players student group. **However, only the designated coupon shows will count for points (including extra credit).**

**ANALYSIS PAPER STRUCTURE:** Papers are to be typed, double spaced and formatted according to MLA standards. (1" margins surrounding the page; **name, date, instructor and course in upper left hand corner of first page**; title centered on first page; each page numbered in upper right hand corner of each page ½" from top of page. Neatness, grammar and spelling do count! No added title pages are necessary for papers.) Production analysis should reflect on both the text of the play and the aspects of production and performance that enhance or distract from the script of the play. **Please do not write a synopsis of the play; respond to what you see and provide critical analysis!** **Grading for this assignment will focus on our ability to identify the importance of textual and theoretical aspects of a play or musical in performance.** **Production analysis papers MUST NOT EXCEED THREE PAGES IN LENGTH, stapled in the upper left hand corner. No unstapled papers will be accepted.**

**Beware:** There can be no late assignments accepted at the end of the semester, so please try to turn in something for each assignment regardless of circumstances. **There will be NO extra credit work outside of the system of points for assignments, assigned productions, projects, exams and attendance.** So again, please attempt to turn in all assignments, even if you make low grades on them, something will always be better than nothing. Also, be prepared for honest evaluation of poorly conceived work. The objective is to *learn* rather than just getting an "A". This is one of the most serious courses in any theatre training curriculum. The work done here could determine your future success in the field. Quality of work is highly valued and grading of subjective projects and papers may reflect the clarity and artistic quality of each assignment. Exams are graded in accordance with points allocated for each question.

**BONUS POINTS:** Your professor is a bit notorious for giving bonus points at various times throughout the semester. These are the only extra credit points that will be added toward final point totals. Bonus points may be given on a whim! Any occasion may inspire 3-5-10 bonus points. They are often given on days when only a small number of people have made it to class. **THE REALITY!:** **Students must be present on the day that bonus points are awarded to receive the points for that occasion.**

## COURSE CALENDAR: (Subject to Changes and Adjustments)

**Week #1:**

Wed. Aug. 22 Intro to Script Analysis/ Elements and basic structures  
 Fri. Aug. 24 Periods, Styles, Genres, Historical overview of dramatic literature

### *The Wolves* @ HIPP: Aug. 29-Sept. 23

**Week #2:**

Mon. Aug. 27 Playwrights and plays in historical contexts  
 Wed. Aug. 29 James Thomas textbook **Introduction** / “What is Formalist Play Analysis?”  
 Fri. Aug. 31 Continued Introduction details

**Week #3:**

Mon. Sept. 3 **LABOR DAY:** No Classes  
 Wed. Sept. 5 More Introduction details/ including “Misleading Notions: Fallacies”  
 Fri. Sept. 7 **Formalist Exam** - based on textbook Introduction & lectures. (50 pts)

**Week #4:**

Mon. Sept. 10 Discuss Chapter 2: Given Circumstances – read *Othello*/ begin project work  
 Wed. Sept. 12 Details and specifics of Given Circumstances /  
 Fri. Sept. 14 More discussion and examples of Given Circumstances  
 • Production analysis of *THE WOLVES* due (25 pts.) Please see production before this date!!!

**Week #5:**

Mon. Sept. 17 **DUE:** Given Circumstances Project for *Othello* (50 pts.)  
 Wed. Sept. 19 Chapter 3: “Background Story”  
 Fri. Sept. 21 Continued discussion of Background Story

### *Between Riverside and Crazy* @ Black Box: Sept 21-30

**Week #6:**

Mon. Sept. 24 Begin discussion of Chapter 4: “Internal and External Action”  
 Wed. Sept. 26 Internal-External Actions/ Psychological vs. Physical  
 Fri. Sept. 28 Plotting internal and external actions in *Othello*

**Week #7:**

Mon. Oct. 1 Review Background and Internal-External exam information  
 Wed. Oct. 3 Discuss backstory: Production analysis of *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY* due (25 pts)  
 Fri. Oct. 5 **Exam:** Background & Internal and External Exam (100 pts.)

**Week #8:**

Mon. Oct. 8 Chapter 5: “Plot Progression and Structure”  
 Wed. Oct. 10 Rising and Falling Actions / Review of outlines and graphs  
 Fri. Oct. 12 **DUE:** Classical Structural graph of *Othello* (75 pts.)

**WEEK #9:**

Mon. Oct. 15 Elements of building a modern structural breakdown and graph: Read *Heartbreak House*  
 Wed. Oct. 17 French Scene breakdowns *Heartbreak House*  
 Fri. Oct. 19 **DUE:** Modern scene breakdown of *Heartbreak House* (50 pts.) / Discuss play and project

### *Hairspray* @ Constans: Oct. 19-28

**Week #10:**

Mon. Oct. 22 Discuss Chapter 6: “Character”  
Wed. Oct. 24 Continued discussion of Character; bits/ units/ scenes – objectives  
Fri. Oct. 26 Continued discussion of Character/

**Week #11:**

Mon. Oct. 29 **Exam:** Character (50 pts.)  
Wed. Oct. 31 Production analysis of *HAIRSPRAY* due (25 pts)/ Discuss musical structures  
Fri. Nov. 2 **HOME COMING WEEKEND: No Class**

**Week #12:**

Mon. Nov. 5 Chapter 7: “Idea” or; Thought and Theme  
Wed. Nov. 7 Clarifications of “Idea”; Thought and Theme  
Fri. Nov. 9 Chapter 8: “Dialogue”

**Week #13:**

Mon. Nov. 12 **Veterans Day: NO CLASS**  
Wed. Nov. 14 Discussion of Dialogue/ Language use in plays as expression of ideas  
Fri. Nov. 16 **EXAM:** Idea & Dialogue (100 pts.)

**Week #14:**

Mon. Nov. 19 Chapter 11: “Postmodern Drama”  
Wed. Nov. 21 **THANKSGIVING Holiday / NO SCHOOL**  
Fri. Nov. 23 **THANKSGIVING Holiday / NO SCHOOL**

**Week #15:**

Mon. Nov. 26 Postmodern Project / Read: *Angels in America; Pt. 1*  
Wed. Nov. 28 *Chapter 1: “Action Analysis”*  
Fri. Nov. 30 Action Analysis details / Read: *Angels in America; Pt. 1; or, The America Play*

**Week #16:**

Mon. Dec. 3 Action Analysis details  
Wed. Dec. 5 **CLASSES END: No class meeting**  
**Final Exam due – NO LATER THAN Midnight – MONDAY, Dec. 10:**  
Action Analysis of *Angels in America* or *The America Play* (100 pts.)

**CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS!  
TURN THEM OFF BEFORE EACH CLASS!**

**Sorry, no computer use allowed during class time! Class notes should be hand written and may be transferred to computers outside of class if desired.**

**Students with Disabilities/ Special Accommodations:**

The instructor will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Academic Honesty:**

As a result of completing the registration from at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

*“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”*

The instructor of this course fully supports the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We, the members of the University of Florida Community, pledge to hold ourselves, and our peers, to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Lectures given in this class are the property of the University/ faculty member and may not be taped without prior permission from the instructor and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found to be in violation may be subject to discipline under the University’s Student Conduct Code.

The university’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following link:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

**PLEASE REMEMBER!:**

**This course should** provide the principles and foundations on which all work in your other major courses will be based. It is highly recommended that you adjust your outside endeavors and party time accordingly! Because of time issues related to the due date of each assignment, and the obligations for grading and returning your projects, **there can be no late assignments and no additional opportunities for make-up assignments at the end of the semester.** If you take things seriously you will certainly feel very proud and capable as a result!!!

**The Seven “P”s**

**Previous Prior Preparation Prevents Pitiful Poor Performance**

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**“Excuses don’t get results”**

**“You get no pity in the pit”**

**“Mediocrity is excellence only to the mediocre”**

**“Talent = the desire to work hard. Hard work = talent”**

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**SOTD Handbook and Production Policy Manual:**

**Listed on webpage under General Theatre / Current Students/ Student Resources**

<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/programs/generaltheatre.aspx>

## **SOTD Production Policy Manual**

<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/downloads/sotd/10-11%20Production%20Policy%20Manual.pdf>

**In case of a disaster affecting the UF campus, for the latest information see  
<http://www.ufl.edu>**

***City Emergency Notification:***  
**Weekdays Evenings/ Weekends**  
**Fire/Police/Medical Emergency: 911**

## **Campus Resources:**

### **Health and Wellness:**

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

*Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

*University Police Department*, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### **Academic Resources:**

*E-learning technical support*, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

*Career Resource Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints Campus:*

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

## **Online course evaluation process:**

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.