

## TPP 3650/Section 1755: Script Analysis

Dr. Colleen Rua (she/her/hers)  
 Fall 2019, M/W/F 9:35-10:25  
 Office Hours: T/TH 1:30-3:00

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### Course Description:

You are a creator. Theatre is alive and a play script is the seed of creation. The purpose of our textual analyses as theatre professionals - actors, directors, designers, playwrights, producers and dramaturges - is to discover all that the playwright has given us, and then to determine how best we can realize that vision clearly, powerfully and dramatically on stage.

### Course Goals/Learning Objectives:

The overall objective of this course is to provide you with the analytical skills that will enable you to realize a script on stage. Upon completion of the course, you will be able to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the lenses of analysis used to draw meaning from a dramatic text.
2. Facility in applying analysis to production elements in order to establish concepts and reinforce meaning within the text
3. Familiarity with a variety of texts within the dramatic canon, in a variety of styles
4. The ability to think, read and write critically in order to build a sound argument for production choices.

### Required Reading:

*Oedipus\**

By Sophocles

*A Doll's House*

By Henrik Ibsen

*Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue*

By Quiara Alegria Hudes

*Pilgrims of the Night*

By Len Jenkin

Distributed in class

*Marisol*

By Jose Rivera

Distributed in class

### Assignments and Course Expectations:

**Attendance and Participation** (15% of final grade) is required. Discussion and dramatic readings will be an integral part of our class meetings, and the extent to which you participate *will* impact your grade.

We're here to learn from each other and a lively discussion makes for a fun class! Please come to class prepared, having read or prepared the daily assignments. Please be on time for class. Assignments will not be accepted late and cannot be made up.

You are allowed three unexcused absences. After that, your final grade will be reduced by one step for each missed class (i.e., from an A- to a B+).

Our classroom is generally a device-free zone (unless you have a letter from the Disability Resource Center outlining accommodations). Please support a classroom environment of mutual respect, cooperation and collaboration.

**Quizzes** (20% of final grade) Quizzes will cover assigned reading as well as material covered in class. Anything discussed in class may appear on a quiz. Quizzes will allow you to demonstrate your working knowledge of the concepts associated with play analysis and will keep our class discussions of plays alive and relevant. Quizzes remind us to keep up with reading and reinforce important points.

**Short Papers** (20% of final grade) Short papers will allow you to make connections between the material we are studying in class and its practical and/or theoretical applications and impact on our contemporary world.

**Lab Day Presentations** (25% of final grade) Here is your chance to get creative! In groups, you will present creative responses that demonstrate your understanding of material we have covered and its application to a play. Further guidelines on these creative responses will be distributed in class.

**Final Paper** (20% of final grade) For your final paper, you will submit a complete analysis of one of the plays we have studied in class. You will have had time to draft sections of the paper earlier in the semester. A handout with more information and guidelines will be distributed in class.

### Grading Rubric:

A = 94-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	E = <60

### Schedule of Classes

(Please note: This schedule is subject to change. Please bring your syllabus to each class so that you can note any changes as they happen. All readings and assignments are DUE on the date listed)

Wednesday 8/21	Introduction to course
Friday 8/23	How to Look at a Play Read: Summary of Aristotle's Poetics <a href="http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmanus/poetics.html">http://www2.cnr.edu/home/bmcmanus/poetics.html</a> Quiz #1
Monday 8/26	Aristotelian Structure Read: <i>Oedipus</i>
Wednesday 8/28	Action-Analysis Read: Thomas, Chapter 1 (pp 1-27) Quiz #2
Friday 8/30	Action-Analysis Continued Due: Chapter 1 Questions applied to <i>Oedipus</i>

Monday 9/2	No class - Labor Day Holiday
Friday 8/30	Lab Day Exploration
Wednesday 9/4	Nonrealistic Plays Read <i>Pilgrims of the Night</i>
Friday 9/6	Nonrealistic Plays Read: Thomas, Chapter 1 (pp. 27-38)
Monday 9/9	Lab Day #1!
Wednesday 9/11	Modern Realism Read: <i>A Doll's House</i>
Friday 9/13	Given Circumstances Read: Thomas, Chapter 2 (pp 41-65) Quiz #3
Friday 9/13	Given Circumstances Due: Chapter 2 questions applied to <i>A Doll's House</i>
Monday 9/16	Given Circumstances in Nonrealistic Plays Read: Thomas, Chapter 2 (pp. 65-70)
Wednesday 9/18	Lab Day #2
Friday 9/20	Background Story Read: Thomas, Chapter 3 (p. 73-92)
Monday 9/23	Background Story Chapter 3 questions applied to <i>A Doll's House</i>
Wednesday 9/25	Background Story in Nonrealistic Plays Read, Thomas, Chapter 3 (pp. 92-95)
Friday 9/27	Lab Day #3
Monday 9/30	World of the Play Analysis
Wednesday 10/2	External and Internal Action Read Thomas, Chapter 4 (pp. 96-117) Quiz # 4
Friday 10/4	No class – Homecoming
Monday 10/7	External and Internal Action Due: Chapter 4 questions applied to play

Wednesday 10/9	External and Internal Action in Nonrealistic Plays Read: Thomas, Chapter 4 (pp. 117-131)
Friday 10/11	Lab Day #4
Monday 10/14	Read: <i>Elliot A Soldier's Fugue</i>
Wednesday 10/16	Progressions and Structure Read Thomas, Chapter 5 (pp. 133-154) Quiz # 5
Friday 10/18	Progressions and Structure Due: Chapter 5 questions applied to <i>Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i>
Monday 10/21	Progressions and Structure in Nonrealistic plays Read: Thomas, Chapter 5 (pp 154-170)
Wednesday 10/23	Lab Day #5
Friday 10/25	Action and Structure Due: Action and Structure Analysis
Monday 10/28	Character Read: Thomas, Chapter 6 (p. 172-196) Quiz #6
Wednesday 10/30	Character Due: Chapter 6 questions applied to <i>Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i>
Friday 11/1	Character in Nonrealistic Plays Read: Thomas, Chapter 6 (pp. 196-202)
Monday 11/4	Lab Day #6
Wednesday 11/6	Character Due: Character Analysis
Friday 11/8	No class – Dr. Rua at ASTR Conference
Monday 11/11	No class – Veteran's Day
Wednesday 11/13	Postmodernism Read: <i>Marisol</i>
Friday 11/15	Idea Read: Thomas, Chapter 7 Quiz #7
Monday 11/18	Idea Due: Chapter 7 Questions applied to <i>Marisol</i>

Wednesday 11/20	Character and Idea Analysis
Friday 11/22	Drafts of final papers due
Monday 11/25	Work on presentations in class
Wednesday 11/27	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday 11/29	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday 12/2	Lab Presentations
Wednesday 12/4	Lab Presentations
Wednesday 12/11	Final Papers Due

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Accommodations:**

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.

### **Online Course Evaluation Process:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

### **UF Honesty Policy:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**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.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 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 [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.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 On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honorcode-student-conduct-code/>

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