

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

TPP 3650: Section # 3518/ FALL 2019 Syllabus

Script Analysis

M-W-F Period 3 (9:35 AM-10:25 PM) – MCCB, Rm. 2102

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Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-4:50 / Thurs. afternoon and other times 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: Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, Henrik Ibsens' *Ghosts*, David Henry Hwang's *M Butterfly*

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

1. Attendance	100 pts.
2. Introduction Exam	50 pts.
3. Given Circumstances Project	100 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. Live Performance analysis (<i>at least 2@ 25 each</i>)	50 pts.
10. Postmodern Action Analysis (Final Exam)	125 pts.
Total Possible	800 pts

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

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

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 or 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: *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Please see this production in the first three weeks of the run at the HIPPP); *We Are Proud to Present*; and, *Pippin*. 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.** 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. 21 First Class Meeting / Introduction to Script Analysis
Fri. Aug. 23 “What is a Play?” / Elements and basic structures

Week #2:

Mon. Aug. 26 Periods, Styles, Genres, Historical overview of dramatic literature
Wed. Aug. 28 James Thomas textbook **Introduction** / “What is Formalist Play Analysis?”
Fri. Aug. 30 Misleading Notions: Fallacies

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time @ HIPPA: Aug. 28-Sept. 22

Week #3:

Mon. Sept. 2 **LABOR DAY:** No Classes
Wed. Sept. 4 Introduction material final discussion opportunity
Fri. Sept. 6 **Formalist Exam** - based on textbook Introduction and lectures. (50 pts)

Week #4:

Mon. Sept. 9 Discuss Chapter 2: Given Circumstances – also read *Romeo & Juliet* and begin project
Wed. Sept. 11 Details and specifics of Given Circumstances / examples projects
Fri. Sept. 13 **Production analysis of Curious Incident... due (25 pts.)** Please see production before this date!!!

Week #5:

Mon. Sept. 16 **DUE:** Given Circumstances Project for *Romeo & Juliet* (50 pts.)
Wed. Sept. 18 Chapter 3: “Background Story”
Fri. Sept. 20 Continued discussion of Background Story

We Are Proud to Present @ Black Box: Sept 19-29

Week #6:

Mon. Sept. 23 Begin discussion of Chapter 4: “Internal and External Action”
Wed. Sept. 25 Internal-External Actions/ Psychological vs. Physical
Fri. Sept. 27 Plotting internal and external actions in *Romeo & Juliet*

Week #7:

Mon. Sept. 30 Review Background and Internal-External / **Production analysis of We Are Proud due (25 pts)**
Wed. Oct. 2 **Exam:** Background & Internal and External Exam (100 pts.)
Fri. Oct. 4 **HOME COMING WEEKEND:** No Class

Week #8:

Mon. Oct. 7 Chapter 5: “Plot Progression and Structure”
Wed. Oct. 9 Rising and Falling Actions / Review of outlines and graphs
Fri. Oct. 11 **DUE:** Classical Structural graph of *Romeo and Juliet* (50 pts.)

WEEK #9:

Mon. Oct. 14 Elements of building a modern structural breakdown and graph: Read *Ghosts*
Wed. Oct. 16 Modern structure discussion continued
Fri. Oct. 18 French Scene break-downs *Ghosts*

Pippin @ Constans: Oct. 18-27

Week #10:

Mon. Oct. 21 **DUE:** Modern scene breakdown project of *Ghosts*
Wed. Oct. 23 Discuss Chapter 6: “Character”
Fri. Oct. 25 Continued discussion of Character; beats/ units/ scenes – objectives

Week #11:

Mon. Oct. 28 Continued Character chapter discussion
Wed. Oct. 30 TBA/ **Production analysis of *Pippin* due (25 pts)**
Fri. Nov. 1 **Exam:** Character (50 pts.)

Week #12:

Mon. Nov. 4 Chapter 7: “Idea” or; Thought and Theme
Wed. Nov. 6 Clarifications of “Idea”; Thought and Theme
Fri. Nov. 8 Chapter 8: “Dialogue”

Week #13:

Mon. Nov. 11 **Veterans Day: NO CLASS**
Wed. Nov. 13 Discussion of Dialogue/ Language use in plays as expression of ideas
Fri. Nov. 15 **EXAM:** Idea & Dialogue (100 pts.)

Week #14:

Mon. Nov. 18 Chapter 11: “Postmodern Drama”
Wed. Nov. 20 Postmodern Project / Read: *M Butterfly*
Fri. Nov. 22 *Chapter 1: “Action Analysis”*

Week #15:

Mon. Nov. 25 Action Analysis details / Read: *M Butterfly*
Wed. Nov. 27 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; No Classes**
Fri. Nov. 29 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; No Classes**

Week #16:

Mon. Dec. 2 Action Analysis project examples and details discussed
Wed. Dec. 4 **CLASSES END: No class meeting**

Final Exam due – NO LATER THAN Midnight – MONDAY, Dec. 9:
Action Analysis of *M Butterfly* (100 pts.)

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

Sorry, no computer use (laptops or cell phones) 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/) 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 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.
<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

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/>.