

TPP 3650/Section 1755: Script Analysis

Dr. Colleen Rua (she/her/hers)

Fall 2021: M/W/F 9:35-10:25

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30

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Course Description:

You are a creator! Theatre is alive and a play script provides the seed of creation and liveness. The purpose of our textual analyses as theatre professionals - actors, directors, designers, dramaturges, playwrights, marketers/publicists, and producers – 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.

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a theatre/performance skills course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I will do my best to give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language or perspectives that some may find difficult, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

College of the Arts Meta-Strategy 2021-2025: Systemic Resilience

The University of Florida College of the Arts intends to be a transformative community, responding to and generating paradigmatic shifts in the arts and beyond. We do so by:

- Embracing the complexity of our evolving human experience and seeking to empower our students and faculty to shape that experience fearlessly through critical study, creative practice, and provocation.
- Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
- Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
- Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for equity on local and global levels.

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:

- An understanding of a variety of lenses of analysis used to draw meaning from a dramatic text.
- Facility in applying analysis to production elements in order to establish concepts and reinforce meaning within the text
- Familiarity with a variety of texts, including those from playwrights who give voice to stories that are marginalized, overlooked, or appropriated.
- The ability to think, read and write critically in order to build a sound argument for production choices.

Required Texts:

David Rush, *A Student Guide to Play Analysis* (available at the bookstore and for online order)
Additional readings will be posted to Canvas, or links will be provided on Canvas

Plays:

Sarah DeLappe, *The Wolves*

Quiara Alegria Hudes *Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue*
Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, *Gloria*
Len Jenkin, *Pilgrims of the Night*
Antoinette Nwandu, *Pass Over*
Martyrna Majok, *Cost of Living*
Jiehae Park, *peerless*
Alvaro Saar Rios *Luchadora!*

Assignments and Course Expectations:

Participation and Attendance (20% of final grade): are required. Discussion and on-our-feet activities 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 your meaningful contributions to discussion and active engagement makes for a fun class! Please come to class prepared, having read/completed the daily assignments.

Discussion Guidelines (to be developed in collaboration with class):

- Compassion
- "Oops/Ouch"
- Speak from the "I"
- Acknowledge that we speak in draft
- Offer constructive criticism

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place:

The faculty, staff, and Director of the School of Theatre and Dance urge our students to become vaccinated if they have not already done so. The vaccine is free, readily available, safe, and effective. As a point of comparison, Actors Equity Association and the Broadway League are requiring vaccination for all cast, crew, and audience members.

Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

UF has made clear its expectation that all students be masked inside our buildings, even if you are vaccinated. While being masked may change the look and feel of classwork, rehearsals, production activities, and performances, I believe it is most important to prioritize the health and safety of our community. Sanitizing supplies are available in classrooms and hand sanitizing stations are situated throughout our building.

UF has eliminated social distancing protocols. This means that as we return to regular operations, classes, rehearsals, and performances will require students to work in close proximity to others. Note that special care will be taken regarding moments of theatrical intimacy (including notices of anticipated intimacy in audition notices). For non-intimate moments of physical proximity (dancing close to each other, a handshake in a scene, working in a tech booth, a costume fitting, etc.), students are expected to perform stage blocking, choreographic requirements, and/or production activities in classes, rehearsals, and performances.

Any students who are absent from class for reasons related to illness, inclusive of COVID, should not attend rehearsals or performances. If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect

offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time. Students are allowed 3 “unexcused” absences that do not require documentation and do not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Read & Respond (25% of final grade) Responses to a variety of readings 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. Specific guidelines for each Read & Respond will accompany each assignment. You will have a choice between two (or more) assignments that will allow you to demonstrate your learning in a way that feels most beneficial to you.

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 and grading rubrics will be available on Canvas.

Final Paper (Draft sections and Final) (30% of final grade) For your final paper, you will submit a complete analysis of one of the following plays (*Pilgrims of the Night*, *Eliot A Soldier's Fugue*, or *Gloria*). You will

submit draft sections of the paper throughout the semester. Further guidelines and grading rubrics will be available on Canvas.

Grading:

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

Schedule of Classes

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

Monday 8/23	Introduction to course
Wednesday 8/25	Storytelling Read & Respond: Aristotle's Poetics Summary
Friday 8/27	How to Look at a Play Read & Respond: Rush, What is a Play (Pages 21-34)
Monday 8/30	How to Look at a Play Read: <i>Eliot: A Soldier's Fugue</i> Read & Respond: Ybarra, "How to Read a Latinx Play in the Twenty-First Century"
Wednesday 9/1	World of the Play Read & Respond: Rush, Plot (pp. 35-67)
Friday 9/3	World of the Play Read & Respond: Rush, Postmodernism (pp 260-277)
Monday 9/6	No Class - Labor Day Holiday
Wednesday 9/8	Postmodernism Read & Respond: <i>Pilgrims of the Night</i>
Friday 9/10	Sample Lab Day
Monday 9/13	Postmodernism
Wednesday 9/15	Lab Day #1! <i>Eliot, A Soldier's Fugue</i>
Friday 9/17	Realism Read & Respond: Rush, Realism (pp. 191-204 only)
Monday 9/20	Realism Read & Respond: <i>Gloria</i>
Wednesday 9/22	Realism

Read & Respond: Article/Contribute to Google Doc

Friday 9/24

Realism

Due: Paper Part 1 – World of the Play Analysis

Monday 9/27

Lab Day #2! *Gloria*

Wednesday 9/29

Language

Read & respond: *The Wolves*

Friday 10/1

Language

Read & Respond: Rush, Language (pp. 79-93)

Monday 10/4

Language

Read & Respond: Article/Contribute to Google Doc

Wednesday 10/6

Language

Friday 10/8

No Class – Homecoming

Monday 10/11

Lab Day #3! *The Wolves*

Wednesday 10/13

Character

Read & Respond: Rush, Characters (pp. 68-78)

Friday 10/15

Character

Read & Respond: *Luchadora!*

Monday 10/18

A visit from Alvaro Saar Rios!

Due: Paper Part 2 – Language Analysis

Wednesday 10/20

Character

Read & Respond: Article/Contribute to Google Doc

Friday 10/22

Character

Monday 10/25

Lab Day #4! *Luchadora!*

Wednesday 10/27

Asynchronous Assignment - Dr. Rua at Conference

Friday 10/29

Idea

Asynchronous Assignment – Dr. Rua at Conference

Monday 11/1

Idea

Read & Respond: *Cost of Living*

Wednesday 11/3

Idea

Read & Respond: Article /Contribute to Google Doc

Friday 11/5

Idea

Monday 11/8

Lab Day #5! *Cost of Living*

Wednesday 11/10	Symbolism Read & Respond: Rush, (pp 99-112) Due: Paper Part 3 – Character Analysis
Friday 11/12	Symbolism Read: <i>peerless</i>
Monday 11/15	Symbolism
Wednesday 11/17	Symbolism
Friday 11/19	Lab Day # 7! <i>peerless</i>
Monday 11/22	Theatre of the Absurd Read & Respond: Rush, Theatre of the Absurd (pp. 230-241)
Wednesday 11/24	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday 11/26	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday 11/29	Theatre of the Absurd Read & Respond: <i>Pass Over</i>
Wednesday 12/1	Theatre of the Absurd Due: Paper Part 4 – Symbolism & Idea Analysis
Friday 12/3	Theatre of the Absurd
Monday 12/6	Lab Day #8! <i>Pass Over</i>
Wednesday 12/8	Wrap-Up
Wednesday 12/15	Final Papers Due (submit by 5:00pm)

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/) 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.aa.ufl.edu/publicresults/>.”

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 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. <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-studentconduct-code/>

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