

MWF 11:00-11:50am
Fall 2014
Office hours: By appt.

Class Locations
McTier: CJC A209
Prior: CJC A181

Text Analysis for Theatre
Course Syllabus
THEA 2367

THIS SYLLABUS, SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GRADES CAN BE FOUND ON THE BLACKBOARD WEBSITE-PLEASE CHECK IT FREQUENTLY!

<http://blackboard.shsu.edu>

Catalog Description:

This course examines the methodology for analyzing dramatic masterworks primarily as tools for the theatre craftsman and emphasizes the importance of this practical skill for actors, directors, designers and playwrights. While focusing on the dramatic structure of a script in various plays, this course will concurrently examine the playwright's social and cultural milieu.

Course Description:

This course is being team taught by Dr. David McTier and Thomas Prior.

McTier: During our lecture/discussions this semester, we will explore dramatic theory as it affects playwriting and analysis. We also will consider how different critical lenses affect our perception, understanding, and evaluation of the scripts being discussed with Prof. Prior. We will explore topics (and possible careers!) related to text analysis, including playwriting and screenwriting, dramaturgy and journalistic criticism. Our discoveries together will be applied in three hands-on projects that utilize both hard copy and online resources.

Prior: This course examines the practical skill of analyzing scripts for actors, directors, designers, playwrights and teachers. Through investigating various dramatic texts and treating them primarily as tools for the theatre craftsman and *not as a study of literature*, we will examine the dramatic structure of a script while concurrently examining the social and cultural events of the playwright's world. Using David Ball's book *Backwards and Forwards*, Aristotle's *Poetics* and Dr. McTier's explorations of dramatic theory and criticism, each play will be examined with the objective of presenting the work to a live theatre audience.

Course Objectives:

McTier

- To understand key dramatic theories that have defined and challenged our understanding of dramatic texts and genres.
- To understand how people may have profoundly different interpretations of and critical responses to a text based on their own personal and cultural contexts.
- To be able to locate and use hard copy and online resources that will enrich class studies and research for production.
- To understand the role and value of written criticism to the life and development of theatre production.
- To understand how text analysis can prepare other performance-related paths and careers.

Prior

- To find the tools necessary for thorough script analysis over a wide range of dramatic styles and genres
- To gain a basic understanding of scripts through analyzing them as a map for the theatre practitioner
- To learn the tools of discovering character through textual building blocks
- To construct a personalized regimen for each student in preparation for the rehearsal process
- To make the analysis of plays less sacrosanct and academic and more as a practical tool for making informed creative choices to utilize in performance.

Required Texts: *Backwards and Forwards*.....David Ball
Antigone.....Sophocles
Hamlet..... William Shakespeare
Fences.....August Wilson
Angels in America: Millennium Approaches..... Tony Kushner
The Bald Soprano..... Eugene Ionesco

The Newton Grisham Library has copies of all these plays. More details TBA.

Course Requirements:

- Prior: there will be four quizzes on the four major plays examined and a test on *Backwards and Forwards*
- McTier: 3 projects
- McTier and Prior: a final covering ALL material covered during the course of the semester
- **Attendance**
By university policy for classes that meet three times each week (MWF classes), you may not be penalized for up to 3 absences, nor for any absence due to pre-approved religious observance; beyond that depends on the instructor’s discretion. After 3 absences, you will be penalized -3 points from your final course grade for each excess absence, unless there is written intervention from the Office of the Dean of Students (located in the LSC).
- For each day of class that you arrive on time, you will be rewarded with 1/13th of a point (a “tasty treat”) to be added to your final course grade.
- **Late & Makeup Work**
You may make up a test or submit a project late only if you have legitimate and documented reason approved by the Dean of Students Office, e.g., university obligation, hospitalization, court appearance, jury duty, funeral. The Office of the Dean of Students is located in the Lohman Student Center; just take your document(s) to that office, which, in turn, will notify all of your professors by e-mail. Late Work---Any project submitted late will be penalized one letter grade (-10 points) for each week overdue.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy A student desiring to miss a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) should present a written statement concerning the religious holiday to me at least 2 weeks before the absence. I will then notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Americans with Disabilities Act SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center by calling (936) 294-1720.

Grade Breakdown:

Grade Rubric			
Attendance & Participation		10%	
McTier	10%		
Prior	10%		
Quizzes on play readings	4@5% each	Prior	20%
Test on "Backwards and Forwards"		Prior	10%
Projects (3 @ 10% each)		McTier	30%
Final	(Covers McTier & Prior material)		20%
Total			100%

Instructor Information:

Office Location

McTier PAC-284F

Prior: UTC-126

Office Phone

McTier 936.294.4063

Prior: 936.294.1328

Email

McTier: dam005@shsu.edu

Prior: tomprior@shsu.edu

Class Locations

McTier: CJC A209

Prior: CJC A181

THEA 2367: Text Analysis for the Theatre

Dave's Roster

Day	Month	Date	Class Focus	Prof	Room
W	AUG	27	Syllabus	Both	209
F		29	Introduction	Dave	209
M	SEPT	1	Labor Day		
W		3	Aristotle and definitions of theatre	Dave	209
F		5	TBA	Dave	209
M		8	Genres: different types of plays	Dave	209
W		10	Backwards and Forwards—pps. 3-24	Tom	181
F		12	Backwards and Forwards—pps. 25-59	Tom	181
M		15	Formulas: Formats for writing	Dave	209
W		17	Backwards and Forwards---pps. 60-96	Tom	181
F		19	Friday Special	Both	209
M		22	Inside / Outside: Objectivity versus Subjectivity	Dave	209
W		24	Quiz #1 <i>Antigone</i> —Analysis of <i>Antigone</i>	Tom	181
F		26	Friday Special	Both	209
M		29	Reader Response: race, ethnicity, gender, orientation	Dave	209
W	OCT	1	Analysis of <i>Antigone</i> : Part 2	Tom	181
F		3	Library: Utilizing hard copy resources	Dave	209
M		6	Discussion: Topic TBA	Tom	181
W		8	Quiz #2 <i>Hamlet</i> ---Analysis of <i>Hamlet</i>	Tom	209
F		10	Analysis of <i>Hamlet</i> : Part 2	Tom	209
M		13	Analysis of <i>Hamlet</i> : Part 3	Tom	209
W		15	View <i>Hamlet</i> Productions	Tom	209
F		17	Test on <i>Backwards and Forwards</i>	Tom	209
M		20	Criticism: Others responding to our artistic choices	Dave	209
W		22	Quiz #3 <i>Fences</i> —Analysis of <i>Fences</i>	Tom	181
F		24	Q & A: <i>Machinal</i>	Both	209
M		27	Dramaturgy	Dave	209
W		29	Analysis of <i>Fences</i> : Part 2	Tom	181
F		31	Friday Special	Both	209
M	NOV	3	Modern / Counter Aristotelian modes in plays	Dave	209
W		5	Quiz #4 <i>Angels in America, pt. 1</i> --Analysis of <i>Angels in America, Pt. 1</i>	Tom	181
F		7	Q & A: <i>Yankee Tavern</i>	Both	209
M		10	Playwriting versus Screenwriting: Non theatrical forms	Dave	209
W		12	Analysis of <i>Angels in America, pt. 1</i> Continued		
F		14	Friday Special	Both	209
M		17	Evaluations / Q & A: <i>Forum</i>	Both	209
W		19	TBA	Dave	209
F		21	TBA	Dave	209
M		24	Q & A: <i>Director Debuts</i>	Both	209
W		26			
F		28			
M	DEC	1	Wrap up	Dave	209
W		3	Off for Juries		
F		5	Off for Juries		
W		10	FINAL 11-1PM	BOTH	209