

THEA 3364: Dramaturgy

Summer I 2014
CRN 40266

David McTier, Ph.D.

Office: PAC 284-F
(936) 294-4063

Contact Info & Appointments

I will be in the classroom at least 15 minutes before each class and can meet with you then or immediately after class ends. If you would like a longer meeting in my office, please let me know, and we'll schedule an appointment. You may leave a message at (936) 294-4063 or e-mail me at dam005@shsu.edu. Please do not e-mail me through Blackboard.

Course Description

THEA 3364 is a writing-enhanced, hands-on workshop on production dramaturgy, which is an exploration and application of the processes, research, and resources needed to make *informed* production choices.

The first hour (10:00-10:50 am) of each class will be a lecture/discussion located in PAC 240; the second hour (11:00-11:50 am) will be active research and application in the PAC Computer Lab. On most Fridays, we will spend our first hour in the Main Library.

Credit for this course may substitute for any one of the three required writing-enhanced courses I teach during the regular year: *Theatre History I* (THEA 3360), *Theatre History II* (THEA 4360), and *Theory and Criticism* (THEA 4363).

Course Requirements

You must attend at least 85% of all classes (17 of 20 class days = 34 of 40 class hours).

You will select and read a playscript of your own choosing and then use that script throughout the course. The script needs to have a specific time and geographic location in the past; please do not select anything set in the future or that is too abstract. Also, if your script is very new or short, it may not provide enough material and history for your assigned projects.

You will create and publish an online blog comprised of the posts (assignments) listed on the attached itinerary. You may use either blogger.com or wordpress.com; you may not add to a pre-existing blog or use Tumblr. Both approved blog platforms are free, user-friendly, and do not require you to divulge personal information, credit card number or phone number. You may need to set up a Gmail account.

You will write four essays and submit them via Turn-It-In on Blackboard. These essays must be written in your own words without paraphrasing or quoting. The first essay should be appr. 300 words in length; the following three essays must be at least 500 words. You will be graded on content and form/mechanics (which includes length).

In lieu of a final exam, you will submit a Dramaturgy Notebook that presents all of your posts, essays, and supplemental materials in a reader-friendly, professional looking hard-copy format. You will be graded on content and form/presentation. If you prefer to create a digital notebook, talk with Dave about format.

For each class, please bring your script, and paper/notebook and pen/pencil. You also should bring a flash drive to store files or have access to your S drive or online cloud storage. (You should not ever store to the Desktop.)

Graded Components

Please refer to the attachment that covers itinerary and assignments.

30% Posts: 15 total posts published on your online blog; each is worth 2%

50% Essays: 4 original essays submitted through Turn-It-In on Blackboard; the first essay counts 5%; the other three essays count 15% each

20% Dramaturgy Notebook: submitted in hard copy in lieu of a final exam (digital format only with Dave's approval)

Late Work

Posts are to be completed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the assigned day. You should be able to finish most posts during our lab time. All essays are due via TurnItIn by the end of each Sunday at 11:59 p.m. If you miss a given Sunday's deadline, you be penalized one letter grade. Given my deadline for filing grades for the course, I cannot accept any materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

Attendance

You must attend a minimum of 34 class hours (17 of 20 two-hour classes). For anything less than 34 hours, you will be penalized -3 points (from your final course grade) for **each class hour** missed. **No distinction is made between "excused" and "unexcused" absences.**

There will be one make-up day (2 hours) on Thursday, June 27 in the PAC computer lab. Attendance is optional.

For each class **hour** that you arrive on time and remain until the end of the period, you will receive +1/20 (one twentieth) point to add to your final course grade. (Thus, +2 total points are available, if you are on time for all 40 class hours. Each semester, these "tasty treats" bring many students up a letter grade!)

We do not have a final, nor do we meet as a class during the final exam period; instead, your Dramaturgy Notebook is due on the final exam day, Thursday, June 27, no later than 5:00 p.m.

Technology & Conduct

If you prefer to use your own laptop during lab time, you are welcome to do so. Please note that lab time is not optional; even if you use your own laptop, you must be present during lab time, so that I may be available to you (and you to me); otherwise, I cannot justify spending half of our contact hours in a lab.

We will take a 10-minute break each day at 10:50 am. Please restrict your text messaging, phone calls, bathrooming, eating, e-mailing, and socializing to that time.

Beverages in spill-proof containers are permitted in PAC 240 but not in the PAC Computer Lab.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Students with Disabilities

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 affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with 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.

Dramaturgy: Itinerary & Assignments (Tentative)

Post # 10:00 Content

11:00 Application

Homework

Understanding the Course						
May 29	THU	1	Syllabus and Introductions What is Dramaturgy?	Create blog. Post #1 : Defining Dramaturgy (2%)	Search for and select a play title. Get a copy of the script and read it.	
30	FRI	2	Library: Introduction and Tour	How to find scripts online. Post #2: Dramaturgy & Me (2%)	Mark every word, phrase, name or reference you don't know or can't pronounce. Essay #1 : My Play (5%**) Due by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. on Turn-It-In	
Understanding the Script of the Play						
June 2	MON	3	Publications, Translations, and Adaptations	Post #3: The Physical Script (2%) Basic Facts		
3	TUE	4	Genres and Play Analysis	Post #4: Script Analysis (2%)		
4	WED	5	Exegesis	Post #5: Exegesis (2%)		
5	THU	6	Literary Criticism & Commentary	Post #6: Critical Response (2%)		
6	FRI	7	Library: Scavenger Hunt	Begin Turn-It-In Essay #1	Finish Essay #2: Understanding the Script (15%**) Due by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. on Turn-It-In	
Understanding the World of the Play						
9	MON	8	People and Places	Post #7: Demographics (2%)		
10	TUE	9	Headlines	Post #8: Headlines (2%)		
11	WED	10	Culture and Context	Post #9: Culture & Context (2%)		
12	THU	11	Sounds and Images	Post #10: Sounds and Images (2%)		
13	FRI	12	Library: Reference and Serials	Begin Turn-It-In Essay #3	Finish Essay #3: The World of the Play (15%**) Due by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. on Turn-It-In	

Understanding the Production Life of the Play				
16	MON	13	Production History	Post #11: Production History (2%)
17	TUE	14	Production Reviews	Post #12: Production Reviews (2%)
18	WED	15	Sounds and Images	Post #13: Production Stills (2%)
19	THU	16	Promotional Materials	Post #14: Publicity & PR (2%)
20	FRI	17	Library: Advanced	Begin Turn-It-In Essay #3
Finish Essay #4: Production History (15***) Due by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. on Turn-It-In				
Helping Others Understand the Play				
23	MON	18	Educational Materials	Post #15: Resources (2%)
24	TUE	19	Censorship, Copyright, Casting and Controversies	Begin work on Dramaturgy Notebook.
25	WED	20	Best of Blogs	Continue work on Dramaturgy Notebook.
26	THU		Optional: Makeup One Hour	Optional: Makeup Another Hour
Dramaturgy Notebook (20%) must be finished and posted/turned in by 5:00 p.m.				

Notes:

Each **post** is due no later than 5:00 on its given day. Posts may include copy-and-paste as long you identify and link your source(s).

Each **essay** must be written in your own words (without quotes or paraphrasing). Each essay is due by the end of Sunday (11:59 p.m.) on its given week, and each must be submitted via Turn-It-In on Blackboard.