

THR 4292: Dramaturgy
CRN 42596

Summer I 2011
David McTier, Instructor

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.

Course Description

This THR 492 is a writing-enhanced, hands-on workshop on production dramaturgy—an exploration and application of the processes 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) of each class will be supervised lab time in CJC 111.

Typically, the first hour of class on Mondays and Wednesdays will be an exploration of Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* from a dramaturg's perspective; on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the first hour, we will address the each of the eight titles on our 2010-2011 production season, again, from a dramaturg's perspective; Fridays will be reserved for library visits, where will focus on "hard copy" research and resources. The second hour of each day will be supervised computer time developing an individual dramaturgy project/blog for a script of your choosing.

As approved by the administration, 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* (THR 360W), *Theatre History II* (THR 460W), and *Theory and Criticism* (THR 463W).

Course Requirements

Attending at least 85% of all classes (34 of 40 class hours; 17 of 20 calendar days).

Reading the Franz translation of Wedekind's *Spring Awakening*.

Developing and publishing an online blog comprised of the assignments listed below for a script you've selected. This blog is completely free, user-friendly, and does not require that you divulge personal information or that you provide a credit card number or phone number. (Important note: The script you choose needs to have a specific time and geographic location in the past or present—nothing futuristic or too abstract. Also, if your script is very new or short, it may not provide enough material and history for the projects you must complete.)

Preparing and submitting an Educator's Packet (Study Guide) in hard copy for your selected script.

Please bring a flash drive to use in the computer lab as well as paper/notebook and pen/pencil to each class.

Graded Components

All graded assignments will be posted on your blog (www.shsudramaturgyyourlastname.blogspot.com). This blogging program is simple to use and FREE.

25% The Facts of the Play (due no later than 4:00 on Thursday, June 9)

5% basics (facts about script, author, genre, and structure)

5% exegesis (selective)

5% fable with plot summary (with act and scene breakdown)

5% characters (with brief description)

5% statement: "Characters and Casting"***

25% The World of the Play (due no later than 4:00 on Thursday, June 16)

5% macro context: time, place, and people in the world, region, country, state during this decade

5% micro context: time, place, and people in this specific location and specific date/year
5% sounds and images (the more specific to the micro context, the better)
10% statement: "Understanding the World of the Play"***

25% Production History (due no later than 4:00 on Thursday, June 23)

5% notable productions (basic facts and people involved)
5% notable reviews
5% designs and photos
10% statement: "Understanding the Play's Production History"***

25% Other (due no later than 4:00 on Thursday, June 30)

10% program notes OR notes to production company**
15% educator's packet**

** indicates that these must be written in your own words to satisfy the "writing enhanced" requirements of the course: 50% or more of your final course grade must stem from your own writing

Grading Criteria

For each component, your grade will be based on the following:

75% content

all required elements included; appropriate length; intelligent and thoughtful; communicated well

25% format

mechanics of writing (spelling, syntax, organization, punctuation)
citations (present, accurate, and linked)
appearance, accessibility, and ease of use

Late Work

Assignments submitted late will be penalized one letter grade (-10 points) for each week overdue.

Given my deadline for filing grades, I cannot accept any materials submitted after 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 30.

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 Wednesday, June 29, in the CJC 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 +1/10 (one tenth) point to add to your final course grade. (Thus, +4 total points are available if you are on time for all 40 class hours. Each semester, these "tasty treats" help 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 fourth and final project is due on the final exam day (no later than 4:00 pm).

Technology & Conduct

Laptops are not permitted during the first hour (lecture-discussion) of each class day; however, you may use your own laptop for lab/library research during the second hour.

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.

Bottled water is permitted in PAC 240 but not in CJC 111.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and then talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation will be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1 Classes Begin	2	3 Library Day 1	4
5	6	7 <i>Comedy Errors</i>	8	9 <i>Fuddy Meers</i> Project 1 DUE by 4:00	10 Library Day 2	11
12	13	14 <i>Bare</i>	15	16 <i>Playhouse</i> Project 2 DUE by 4:00	17 Library Day 3	18
19	20	21 <i>Some Girls</i>	22	23 <i>You Can't Take</i> Project 3 DUE by 4:00	24 Library Day 4	25
26	27	28 <i>Once Mattress</i>	29 Classes End Makeup Class all in CJ Lab	30 Project 4 DUE by 4:00	1	2