

THEA 1713

Script Analysis (3cr FA)

Spring 2024 TR 11:30-12:50

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the development of methods and ideologies of script analysis with focus on the identification of major components of the text of the script. Emphasis is placed on dramatic structure, characterization, given circumstances, exposition and the dramaturgical analysis of the text. The practical applications of theatre productions are founded on the text of a particular script. An analysis of that text is the beginning of any work in theatre. The text/script is one of the basic building blocks of the theatre experience for the audience, performer and producers. An understanding of that literary work is vital to creating the maximum experience for each of the theatrical participants, i.e. Directors, Designers, Actors, etc.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods by which to analyze a play script.
2. Demonstrate the ability to examine the role of the playwright and how it functions in relation to the actor, director and designers in a production.
3. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, both verbally and in written form, the script of an SLCC Black Box production prior to viewing the live production.
4. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and articulate the dramatic structure, characterization, given circumstances, and exposition contained in a play script.
5. Demonstrate understanding of play analysis through presentation of a term project from the point of view of one of the following: actor, director, designer, or producer.

REQUIRED TEXT (Available at SLCC bookstore or online links provided below when available.)

- Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers Thomas
 - Hamlet - Shakespeare - <https://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html>
 - [Links to an external site.](#)
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 - Raisin in the Sun Hansberry - https://khdzamlit.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/6/11261956/a_raisin_in_the_sun_-_lorraine_hansberry.pdf
 - [Links to an external site.](#)
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 - Water by the Spoonful - Quiara Alegría Hudes
 - The Seagull - Chekhov - <https://dancenina.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/the-seagull1.pdf>
 - [Links to an external site.](#)
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 - Doubt Shanley - <http://www.cressonlake.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Doubt-Shanley.pdf>
 - [Links to an external site.](#)
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 - Love and Information Churchill
 - Other readings will be provided digitally

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE OR SCRIPT PRESENTATION – 50 points

Option 1: Read one Script (not being taught in this class) that has been nominated or won a major theatre award. (Tony, Pulitzer, Drama Desk...). Present on script structure and critique orally to the class.

Option 2: Attend one theatrical production, live or recorded. Present on script structure and critique orally to the class.

- Amelie - April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
- Other options available

EXTRA CREDIT: You may submit one additional Production or Script critique, in writing, for 25 points extra credit. Extra production may be live or viewed from Digital Theatre + at libweb.slcc.edu/research/database-listing/D

[Links to an external site.](#)

Must login with an SLCC ID.

COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY (30%)

This is an interactive class. Attendance is extremely important to the experience. If you are going to miss a class, please contact the professor and group members in advance. Your group will perform without you if necessary. If you are experiencing any illness symptoms wear a mask and take the necessary precautions.

You may have up to three absences this semester, for any reason, with no grade consequence. You are responsible for any missed assignments.

Beyond three, each absence will drop your final grade by 5% (50 points) up to 300 points. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to continue learning. Complete a makeup assignment in Canvas to demonstrate that learning and make up the points. See Canvas for assignment details. Attendance makeup assignments due for each class missed, no later than the end of that week. **You may complete up to FIVE Attendance Make-up Assignments at 50 points each for up to 300 points of attendance make up credit. Additional absences beyond six are not eligible to be made-up points-wise.** While these assignments will help your attendance grade, they will not change your actual attendance record. In-class performances and assignments may not be made up without instructor approval. Communicate extreme circumstances to your instructor. Communication is key.

TARDINESS

Please arrive to class on time. Arriving more than 10 minutes late may be considered an absence.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

In the Salt Lake Community College Theatre Department, attendance is an extremely important part of the educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes. In case of a necessary absence, students should contact their professor and any group members in advance and stay caught up on any missed work. Students are accountable for all academic activities, and faculty may require additional

assignments to make up for the missed class or classes. In addition, faculty members are encouraged to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to health issues, emergencies, and the observance of religious holidays.

When a student reaches 3 absences in a course, or 3 tardies in a course, or a combination of the two, the student will be called to have a meeting with the department head to discuss their attendance. If the attendance problems persist, the student may be put on departmental probation for one semester. This probation will prohibit the student from auditioning or participating in departmental productions.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Cell Phones - Phone should remain silent and put away during class.
- Office Hours - To guarantee that we can have time for a meeting during my office hours, please schedule with me in advance when possible, in person or via E-mail.
- Missed Assignments and Quizzes: May be made up at the discretion of the instructor if the absence is arranged in advance or with doctor's note. Otherwise, no performance, exam, or quiz will be given as makeup. You must arrange for make-up work. I won't come to you.
- Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted until the noted deadline. All late assignments will be given 75% credit.
- All written assignments should be typed into a word document using 12 point font, 1" margins, and submitted on Canvas as a .doc or a .pdf. Documents submitted in the incorrect format will be counted as missing or late until submitted correctly.
- Extra Credit: Students may see an additional production produced outside the college for Extra Credit. Outside productions require instructor approval first. A typed response/review of 2-4 pages is also required. You can receive up to 25 extra points for production attended with a maximum of one allowed.
- Daily assignments may also be assigned contingent upon the daily course subject matter.

Assignments

Points

Script/Production Presentation 50

Hamlet Check-in	50
Raisin in the Sun Check-in	50
Seagull Check-in	50
Water by the Spoonful Check-in	50
Doubt Check-in	50
Love and Information Check-in	50
Final Concept Presentation	200
In-Class exercises/discussions	100
Participation/Attendance	300
TOTAL	1000

GRADING SCALE:

100-94 A	82-80 B-	69-66 D+
93-90 A-	79-76 C+	65-63 D
89-86 B+	75-73 C	62-60 D-
85-83 B	72-70 C-	59-0 E

Please be advised that the weekly course schedule is subject to change. Please complete all assigned readings prior to class meeting.

In Class Today:**Due Today:****Week One**

Syllabus and Canvas

Jan. 8-12

Origins and Greek Theatre

Week TwoAristotle's *Poetics*

Jan. 15-19

Freytag's Plot Structure

No Class January 15

Week ThreeMiddle Ages and the
Renaissance

Jan. 22-26

Shakespeare

Week Four

Discuss: Action Analysis

Jan. 29-Feb. 2

Discuss: *Hamlet*Read: *Hamlet*

Read: Action Analysis

Week Five

No Class Feb. 6

Feb. 5-9

Discuss: *Raisin in the Sun*Discuss: *Given Circumstances*Read: *Raisin in the Sun*Read: *Given Circumstances*

Week Six Discuss: *Raisin in the Sun*
Feb. 12-16 Discuss: Background Read: Background

Week Seven 1800-1900 Realism No Class Feb. 19
Feb. 19-23 Discuss: Character Read: *The Seagull*
 Discuss: *The Seagull*

Week Eight Discuss: The Seagull
Feb. 26-March
1

SPRING **MARCH 4-8 – No Class**
BREAK

Week Ten Discuss: *Isms*
March 11-15

Week Eleven Discuss: Internal and External Action Read: Internal and External Action
March 18-22
Discuss: Water by the Spoonful Read: Water by the Spoonful

Week Twelve Discuss: Progressions and Structure Read: Progressions and Structure
March 25-29
Discuss: Water by the Spoonful Read: Doubt
Discuss: *Doubt*

Week Thirteen Concept/Design/Discuss Final Project Read: Idea
April 1-5 *Read: Dialogue*
Discuss: Idea
Discuss: Dialogue
Discuss: *Doubt*

Week Fourteen Spectacle Read: Tempo, Rhythm and Mood
April 8-12
Discuss: Non-Realism
Discuss: *Love and Information*

Week Fifteen Discuss: *Love and Information* Read: Style

April 15-19 *Theatre Today*

Week Sixteen Present Final Project

April 22-26

Last day for all
assignments

- Your final for this class will be to select a play we have not read or watched in this class. Play must have won a major award; Tony, Pulitzer, Drama Desk, etc. Must approve play with instructor. You will complete a full analysis with a format discussed in class. In addition, you will present a director's concept presentation including a 2-4 page paper, visuals, and audio. These presentations will be scheduled during the final showcase in lieu of the final exam for the term. See Canvas for assignment details.

*Important Information from the Institutional Syllabus is available on our Canvas page.