



**THE 497: DRAMATURGY  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020  
TTR 12:30-1:45 p.m.  
PAC #112**

**Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre**  
**Office Location: Performing Arts Center #105**  
**Office Hours: M 2-4 p.m., T/R 11 a.m.-noon, W 12-2 p.m. or by appointment**  
**Office Phone: 903-886-5339**  
**University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@tamuc.edu**

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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“The goal of dramaturgy is to resolve the antipathy between the intellectual and the practical in the theatre, fusing the two into an organic whole.” Leon Katz

**Required Textbooks:**

*Interpreting the Playscript*, Anne Fliotsos

*The Process of Dramaturgy: A Handbook*, Scott R. Irelan, Anne Fletcher, and Julie Felise Dubiner

*The Art of Active Dramaturgy*, Lenora Inez Brown (**select chapters provided .pdf**)

*Theory/Theatre: An Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Mark Fortier (**available for free as eBook via Gee Library**)

Hand-outs, chapters, articles distributed in class and/or posted online

**\*All PDF texts will be provided for you by your instructor**

**PLAYS to be Read for Class:**

*A Doll's House*

*Eurydice*

*Fires in the Mirror* OR *For Colored Girls . . .*

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Plays-in-Progress (TBA)

**Choose from for Final Project (Dramaturgy Production Book):**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*Twelfth Night*

*Silent Sky*

*The Triangle Factory Fire Project*

*Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*

*The Laramie Project*

*The Addams Family*

*Seussical*

*The Drowsy Chaperone*

**Course Description:**

An introduction to the theory and practice of dramaturgy, including a survey of contemporary critical theories as they apply to the pre-production work of the dramaturg. The student will apply methodologies studies to plays from the classical repertory and to the work of new playwrights.

**Prerequisite:**

THE 1310–Introduction to the Theatre or permission of the instructor.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the role and responsibilities of the dramaturg.
2. Develop skills necessary to analyze plays in preparation to speak with directors and playwrights
3. Develop skills necessary to conduct, synthesize, and organize research
4. Apply theories and terminology as applicable to production dramaturgy

**Course Ethics and Attendance:** *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.*

Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” are valued in this class. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. **A willingness to “give theatre history a chance” is most appreciated.** It is assumed that students will work cooperatively with one another and all work that is not “original” will be properly credited. See the TAMUC *Student’s Guide Handbook* for more information on plagiarism. This is a serious offense that can result in separation from the university. **EVEN if not specifically noted on instructions or prompts for each assignment, plagiarism policies will be strictly enforced.**

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:**

Sample Glossary	5 pts
Production History, Playwright’s Background, Reviews Exercise	5 pts
Talking Points	5 pts
Letter to the Director	5 pts
Outreach or Lesson Plan Exercise	5 pts
Teacher Packet Material	10 pts
New Play Development Questions	5 pts
Letter or Email to the Playwright for New Plays	5 pts
Lobby Display	10 pts
Gloss for (Play TBA)	5 pts
Critical Theory/Conceptual Framework/Sets Exercise	15 pts
Production Dramaturgy Book for the Play of Your Choice	25 pts
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

**Grading Scale:**

The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

100-90 =	A
89-80=	B
79-70=	C
69-60=	D
59 and below=	F

**A grade of "A" will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments regardless of average.**

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT:** It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. Additionally, I will provide electronic copies of the plays and any supplemental reading through D2L and/or email.

**WRITTEN WORK:** Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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**Contacting Me:**

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. Communicate, communicate, communicate! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is **via email**. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

**Email Policy:**

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check myLeo Online/ask a classmate first**. If your question has already been addressed in one of those places, then you will have the answer you need. If your question does not exist, please feel free to email me.

**When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise, written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. In addition, please follow some common “email etiquette” procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient.

Specifically:

- Write a relevant subject line (e.g., “Dramaturgy question,” or “THE 497 meeting request”)
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
- Bonus: "meaningless niceties" are never a bad idea!
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. **If requesting an appointment**, give me times that you are available **in the initial email!!!** My office hours are posted above.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and **sign your name**.

**Not following these guidelines potentially puts you at the bottom of my list for response time.**

### **Student Resources:**

#### **Department of Theatre**

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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### **Course Specific Procedures:**

#### **Attendance Policy:**

You may accumulate two (2) absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an “excused” absence.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP. **Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every class absence beyond the first two absences.**

#### **Late Arrivals:**

To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less than disciplined/committed student. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. The class will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m.! If you arrive after 12:40 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. **Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute**

grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.

### **Cell Phones and Laptops:**

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, you are welcome to take class notes on a laptop or other electronic device. However, these devices should only be used for taking notes over the current discussions/activities – and you must type very quietly and turn off all sound so as not to disturb other class members. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

### **Late Work:**

I do not accept late work.

### **Extra Credit:**

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

### **Incompletes:**

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were ***maintaining passing grades at the time of the request*** for an incomplete.

### **University Specific Policies and Procedures:**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status.

Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**Please note:** Students use different editions of the Brockett text—and that’s fine—but it is **your responsibility to check that the pages you are reading correspond with the subjects covered** on the dates due. (It is not possible to list the specific page numbers on the syllabus with so many versions of the books in use.)

**Readings and assignments are due on the days on which they are listed below. There are no “make-ups” for IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES.**

**SCHEDULE IN PROGRESS**

Student Contract for THE 497, Spring 2020

I have read the Course Syllabus for THE 497 and understand its content including the attendance policy, productions required, academic honesty section, and classroom behavior requirements (including use of cell phones).

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NAME (Signature)

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Date