



## SYLLABUS – PLAY ANALYSIS

Instructor: Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA  
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1-2pm T/TH 1-3pm  
and by appointment  
Office Location: PAC 128

Semester: Fall 2023  
Course Number: THE 2355  
Meeting Time: MWF 2:00-3:00pm  
Meeting Room: PAC 112

### Course Description

This course in dramatic literature will chronologically and thematically introduce you to a wide variety of plays. We will read and discuss plays as literature intended for theatrical performance, often dealing with the translation of the written page onto the stage. The plays will be examined from the angles of theatre movements, history, cultural context, structure, genre, and form as various viewpoints from which playwrights write and scholars criticize and interpret.

### Course Objectives

Program Learning Outcomes: This course applies at an introductory level to the following Program Learning Outcomes as identified by the School of Theatre:

- The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic. (All degree plans.)
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre history and a variety of theatrical styles. (All degree plans.)
- The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a work of theatre. (BA, BA with Teacher Certification.)
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships. (All degree plans.)
- The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatrical specialization(s). (BA)

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- articulate and describe the defining attributes of various theatrical genres as they were practiced in different historical eras.
- critically analyze, evaluate and describe a dramatic work and its underlying structural elements.
- read and analyze a play with an understanding of its various technical requirements (i.e., setting, costumes, lighting, acting style, etc.).
- demonstrate a richer basic knowledge of dramatic literature and be able to place a theatrical work in its historical context.
- analyze both a dramatic text and a performance text and note the correspondences between them.

## **Texts + Materials**

*Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays* by David Ball

- ISBN-10 : 0809311100
- ISBN-13 : 978-0809311101
- Available online between \$4.25 (used) - \$22.00(new); also available on Kindle (\$9.99) and Audiobook (\$14.95)

Plays will be assigned by 9/6/2023. First plays will be in public domain and free online.

Additional readings – supplementary readings will be provided as PDFs at least one week prior to the date by which the reading must be completed.

You may procure the books however you choose (campus bookstore, online, textbook rental, locally owned bookstores, sharing with a friend, etc.) and in whatever format works best for you (hard copy, digital, or audio.). However, it is your responsibility to have completed the required reading by the due date.

## **Class Procedures and Policies**

School of Theatre Attendance Policy: A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories and other activities for which a student is registered or assigned.

It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, student working the University Series, and other situations of similar importance. Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor or physician involved upon the first day of the student's return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university's public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence.

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After that every unexcused will drop your final grade by one a half letter grade.

In the case of missed classes, the student will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.

## **Community Guidelines:**

We, as a class, will determine the guidelines of behavior for this course. They will be discussed in class and made available on D2L.

## **Requirements**

This is a university course, taken mostly by prospective majors. It involves a good deal of reading. Expect to spend 2-3 hours of work outside class for every hour in class. Part of the expectation of this course is that your writing level be appropriate to a university-level course in the humanities. If you are not confident regarding your writing ability, make arrangements now to take advantage of the university's various writing assistance programs.

**Quizzes (10%):** There will be pop quizzes during the semester. They will be short, lasting approximately 10 minutes each. Quizzes will cover both terminology employed in the class and individual plays.

Production Critiques (20%): Students are required to see the Mainstage productions of *Night Sky* and *Dragons Love Tacos*. A two-page commentary on the production is due at the class period immediately after each production closes. This is not a performance review, but rather a commentary on the means by which structural and critical analyses are revealed in theatrical production. Specific assignments will be distributed prior to each production.

Presentation (20%): Each student will do a presentation covering themes, symbols, and other elements present in the plays read during the semester. This presentation will involve a Power Point Presentation and a short paper (800-1000 words). Further details of the assignment will be discussed in class. 20 points

Critical Paper (20%): You will submit a paper of approximately 1500 words (five pages) employing the terms and concepts of the class to discuss any one play from the anthology other than those assigned for the class or a play approved by the professor. Further details to be discussed in class.

Final exam (20%): The comprehensive final in-class exam will be at 1:15pm on Monday, Dec. 11. It will consist of a variety of questions covering all terms and concepts discussed in the course, ranging across plays read, lecture material, assigned productions and in-class discussions/presentations. Typical question types may include: true / false, short answer, multiple choice, term identification, passage identification, and an essay.

Participation / Effort (10%): You are expected to come to class prepared and to be fully engaged during class discussions.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 or Below

## **Diversity**

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated.

## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

I welcome visits during my office hours and am always happy to make appointments during a time that works best for both the student and I. I don't believe in dumb questions, though I do believe often times the syllabus has not been checked before some questions are asked. If you think it might be on there (a due date or a class policy) check there first. Otherwise feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office. Monday through Friday I will respond to e-mails with 24 hours.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific 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>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **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 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/>

**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.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**COURSE CALENDAR****TBD**