



MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Course Syllabus: Dramatic Analysis

College of Fine Arts

THEA 2423 - 201

Spring 2026; MWF 10:00am-10:50am

### Contact Information

Instructor: Francisco Rendon

Office: B105

Office hours: M/W/F 12PM-1PM, T/TH 11am-12PM, or by appointment.

Office phone: (940) 397-4908

E-mail: francisco.rendon@msutexas.edu

### Course Description

Analysis of the dynamics, messages, themes, images, language, and historical/biographical background of a number of plays drawn from different periods, genres, and styles.

This course is designed for both theatre majors and non-majors. No prior theatre experience is required. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking. Clear writing, collaboration, and the ability to support interpretive claims with textual evidence. Students will engage with the range of historically significant and culturally influential plays, gaining tools for reading and drama that are transferable to performance, scholarship and everyday storytelling.

### Course Objectives

- **Analyze** dramatic texts through close reading and textual evidence.
- **Identify** given circumstances, objectives, obstacles and tactics within a play.
- **Recognize** structural elements such as beats, turning points, and escalation.
- **Examine** how language, imagery, and rhythm function as dramatic action.
- **Articulate** and defend interpretive choices in written and verbal form.
- **Translate** textual analysis into performance directing or design concepts.
- **Engage** thoughtfully with ethical and cultural questions raised by dramatic works.

### Textbook & Instructional Materials

Thomas, James. ***Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers***

*Antigone* – Sophocles

*Macbeth* – William Shakespeare

*Tartuffe* – Molière

*A Doll's House* – Henrik Ibsen

*The Crucible* – Arthur Miller

*Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett

Additional readings and materials will be provided via D2L.

#### Student Handbook

Refer to: MSU Student Handbook 2023-2024

[https://msutexas.edu/student-life/\\_assets/files/handbook.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf)

#### Conduct Statement

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

#### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonesty act will be sanctioned appropriately.

#### AI Policy

The MSU Student Handbook covers Academic Honesty under University Policies and Procedures. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

- Cheating is (1) the use of any unauthorized assistance, (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, or (3) acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material.
- Plagiarism is the use of another person's published or unpublished work without full and clear acknowledgment.
- Collusion is collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit if the faculty member in charge does not authorize that collaboration.

Use of AI to assist in the completion of assignment will not be allowed or tolerated in this course.

#### Student Privacy Statement

Federal law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in

almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents without the proper release from students.

### Title IX Statement

#### Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick  
Title IX Coordinator  
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse  
940-397-4213  
[laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu](mailto:laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu)

You may also file an online report 24/7 at  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout\\_id=6](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit  
<https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

#### Pregnant and Parenting Students

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, the University offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy, may contact MSU's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to discuss support available through the University. The Liaison can be reached by emailing [ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu](mailto:ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu) or calling 940-397-4500. Should a student communicate with me that they are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition or may need additional resources related to pregnancy or parenting, I will communicate that student's information to the Title IX Coordinator, who will

work with the student and others, as needed, to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity.

A pregnant student, a parenting student, or a student with pregnancy related conditions may be provided with supportive measures, based on the student's individualized needs, analogous to those provided to a student with a temporary medical condition, and provided such supportive measures do not fundamentally alter the nature of an education program or activity. Such supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

*For pregnant students:*

- (1) Providing breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom;
- (2) Excusing intermittent absences to attend medical appointments;
- (3) Providing access to online or homebound education, including the providing of access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures (to the extent such materials, recordings are made available to any student with an excused absence);
- (4) Facilitating changes in schedule or course sequence, including extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations and/or providing opportunity to make up missed assignments/assessments (such time extensions shall be applied in the same manner as the University grants and provides ADA/504 accommodations for additional time);
- (5) Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby;
- (6) Offering counseling;
- (7) Facilitating changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest);
- (8) Allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals or unborn children;
- (9) Providing elevator access;
- (10) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission if the student remains in good academic standing; or

(11) Making other necessary changes to policies, practices, or procedures.

*For Parenting Students:*

(1) Facilitating priority registration to the extent the University provides early registration for any other group of students; or

(2) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission.

### Grading

Grades will be comprised of Play Commentary Essays (5 total, lowest grade dropped)(30%), Reading/Analysis quizzes (10%), Midterm Exam (Unseen Scene Analysis (15%), Controversy Position Paper (10%), Final Scene Project written deliverables (10%), Final Scene Project performance (10%), Participation and Preparedness (15%). 90% or above=A, 80% or above =B, 70% or above=C, 60% or above=D and 59% or below=F.

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment

| Assignments                                | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| 5 Play Commentaries (lowest dropped)       | 30%        |
| Reading Analysis Quizzes                   | 10%        |
| Midterm (Unseen Scene Analysis)            | 15%        |
| Controversy Position Paper                 | 10%        |
| Final Scene Project – Written Deliverables | 10%        |
| Final Scene Project - Performance          | 10%        |
| Participation and Preparedness             | 15%        |
| Total Percentage                           | 100%       |

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

| Grade | Percentage    |
|-------|---------------|
| A     | 90% or above  |
| B     | 80%-89%       |
| C     | 70%-79%       |
| D     | 60%-69%       |
| F     | Less than 60% |

### Play Commentaries

Students will complete 5 analytical commentaries over the course of the semester. These short essays emphasize close reading, textual evidence, and interpretive clarity. The lowest commentary grade will be dropped automatically, and the remaining 4 will count towards the final grade.

### Reading/Analysis Quizzes

Short, low stakes quizzes designed to encourage consistent reading and engagement with texts. Quiz's focus on comprehension and analytical observation rather than memorization. Quizzes will be open script.

### Midterm Exam

A written exam centered on the analysis of an unseen scene. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply analytical tools learned in class to new material.

### Controversy Position Paper

A critical essay examining ethical, cultural, or social controversies surrounding the production or interpretation of a play studied in class.

### Final Scene Project

Students will collaborate in small groups to present a short scene or staged reading. Assessment is divided equally between: Written and conceptual deliverables (analysis, beat map, concept statements) - performance or presentation of the scene.

### Participation and Preparedness

Active participation in discussion, group work, and in class activities is essential. Students are expected to come prepared, having completed assigned readings.

### MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend the MSU plays and musicals this semester *Cabaret* and *The Revolutionists* - your ticket is free to both shows with your valid Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early. A written play commentary on one of these productions will add points to your lowest grade category.

### Late Work

Late work will be accepted with a letter grade deduction for each day it is late.

### Make Up Work/Tests

Students with approved absences (school travel, doctors note) will be given one week to make up missed assignments and tests.

### Important Dates

Last day to drop a class with 100% refund: September 8, 2025

Final Deadline to file for May graduation: February 16, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29th, 2026

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

The use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. The student is allowed two absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

### Sickness Policy

Your health and the wellbeing of the class are priorities. If you have a fever, please remain home until it has broken. If you test positive for COVID-19, follow the recommended quarantine period; upon returning, mask-wearing is strongly recommended for several days, though not required. For serious or ongoing medical conditions, seek medical care and provide documentation so that I can best support your learning experience.

### Weather Policy

In the event of a university closure due to weather, class may be moved to a virtual format (via Zoom, Teams, etc.) if a lecture or discussion was scheduled. If the missed class was a practicum day, it may be canceled. Updates will be communicated through D2L and university email.

### General Notes

This class is a chance to step away from the outside world and fully engage in the work of discovering your voice. Devices may be used for notetaking, but please refrain from texting, browsing, or social media during class. Disconnecting for 50 minutes at a time allows you to be fully present with yourself, your peers, and the work we're doing together.

### Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### College Policies

#### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law.

#### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

#### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

#### Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

## Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

## Course Schedule:

| Week       | Subject  |
|------------|--|
| Week 1     | Introduction to Dramatic Analysis                          |
| Week 2-3   | <b>Antigone</b> – Greek Tragedy                            |
| Week 4-5   | <b>Macbeth</b> – Shakespearean Drama                       |
| Week 6-7   | <b>Tartuffe</b> – Comedy and Satire (French Neoclassicism) |
| Week 8-9   | <b>A Doll's House</b> - Realism                            |
| Week 10    | <b>The Crucible</b> – Allegory and Ethics                  |
| Week 11-12 | <b>Waiting for Godot</b> - Absurdism                       |
| Week 13-14 | Final Scene Project  |

## Important Dates

| Assignment Due                       | Date   | Percentage of Final Grade |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Midterm Exam                         | March 6th, 2026 (F)                                | 15%                       |
| Spring Break                         | March 7-14th                                       | <b>No Class</b>           |
| Good Friday Observance               | April 3, 2026 (F)                                  | <b>No Class</b>           |
| Final Scene Project Deliverables Due | May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (F)                     | 10%                       |
| Final Scene Project Performance      | May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (W)<br>10:30AM-12:30PM | 10%                       |