



## **Dramatic Analysis**

THEA 2423

Spring 2023

MWF 12:00-12:50PM FFA B120

Dr. Grace Edgar, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Fain Fine Arts Center

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Office Hours MTWRF 11:00AM-12:00PM

### **Course Descriptions**

Exploration of the fundamental techniques of script analysis including plot, action, character, language, style and thematic material. Students will be expected to read plays and critical essays, and participate in thoughtful class discussion. Students will watch an opera adaptation of a play. Students will write a script analysis on six plays and write a research paper on a play of their choice.

### **Course Materials (Required)**

- *Analyzing Drama; A Student Casebook* by James R. Russo
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library)
- Additional Plays and Opera on D2L.

### **Scripts for Analysis**

*Antigone* by Sophocles

*The Merry Wives of Windsor* by William Shakespeare

*Three Sisters* by Anton Chekov

*Salome* by Oscar Wilde

*Salome* by Richard Strauss

*The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein

*Stop, Kiss* by Diana Son

## **Course Objectives**

- 1) To read and analyze six plays from ancient Greece to now. To understand how a play becomes an opera. [Departmental learning outcome: Functional knowledge of theatrical development]
- 2) To apply various methods of play analysis to the plays and to discover the different results that each type of analysis will yield. [Departmental learning outcome: Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application]
- 3) To contemplate how various analytical discoveries might translate, or have translated, into the design, direction, and performance of a play. [Departmental learning outcome: Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application]
- 4) To understand essential differences between pre-realistic, realistic, and non-realistic (post-modern) modes of dramatic expression, such as classicism, neo-classicism, expressionism, symbolism, surrealism, and absurdism. [Departmental learning outcome: Functional knowledge of theatrical development and Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application]
- 5) To understand the distinguishing features of tragedy, comedy, drama, melodrama, and tragicomedy. [Departmental learning outcome: Functional knowledge of theatrical development and Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application]

## **Evaluation**

Grades will be comprised of participation in class discussion (10%), quizzes on the plays (5% each for a total of 30%), script analysis of six plays (5% each for a total of 30%), a midterm exam in essay question form (10%), and a research paper (20%).

## **Additional Information**

### **Attendance Policy:**

The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Participation: Daily participation in class activities and discussions.
2. Reading: This course requires a great deal of reading outside of class. Assigned reading is to be completed before the beginning of the week for the

material covered during the week. Additionally, students will read a play of their choosing for a research paper and commentaries on the play.

3. Productions: Attend both Midwestern plays this semester *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early. A dramatic analysis bonus paper (additional 5% added to your final grade) can be submitted one week after the production closes.

### **General Notes**

Cell phones need to be turned off or to airplane mode during all classes.

Dedicate class time to being present and learning your craft.

No gum or food. Please always bring water to drink.

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

#### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

#### Grading

Grades will be comprised of participation in class discussion (10%), quizzes on the plays (5% each for a total of 30%), script analysis of six plays (5% each for a total of 30%), a midterm exam in essay question form (10%), and a research paper (20%).

The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

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
Quiz #1	5%
Script Analysis #1	5%
Quiz #2	5%
Script Analysis #2	5%

Assignments	Percentage
Quiz #3	5%
Script Analysis #3	5%
Midterm Exam	10%
Quiz #4	5%
Script Analysis #4	5%
Quiz #5	5%
Script Analysis #5	5%
Quiz #6	5%
Script Analysis #6	5%
Research Paper	20%
Participation	10%
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%

### Quizzes

Quizzes will be given for each of the six scripts to test your thorough reading and comprehension of the plays. There will be six quizzes and each will count as 5% of your final grade.

### Script Analysis

There will be six script analysis papers 2-3 pages in length, double spaced in a 12-point font. Prompts will be provided for each script analysis. Each will count as 5% of your final grade. Papers can be emailed, uploaded to D2L, or turned in as a hard copy.

### Mid-Term Exam

There will be a midterm exam in essay question form on March 10th during class time. You will receive a midterm review study guide on February 27th and we will have a midterm review session in class on March 8th. The midterm will count as 10% of your final grade.

### Research Papers

Research Papers will be due by 5:30PM on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Research papers will be 3-5 pages long, double spaced in a 12-point font. Additionally, a cover page, abstract and bibliography will be provided that do not count towards the page length requirement.

### MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend both Midwestern plays this semester *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early. A dramatic analysis bonus paper (additional 5% added to your final grade) can be submitted one week after the production closes.

### Late Work

Late work will not be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

### Make Up Work/Tests

No make-up work or tests will be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 20, 2023

Deadline to file for graduation: February 20, 2023

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 27, 2023 by 4pm

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

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive 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 Dr. Edgar. The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

## Instructor Class Policies

### Course Requirements

1. Participation: Daily participation in class activities and discussions.
2. Reading: This course requires a great deal of reading outside of class. Assigned reading is to be completed before the beginning of the week for the material covered during the week. Additionally, the student will read a play of their choosing and related scholarly articles for the research paper.

### General Notes

Cell phones need to be turned off or to airplane mode during all classes. Dedicate class time to being present and learning your craft.

No gum or food. Please always bring water to drink.

Plays for your research paper can be chosen by you, but will need to be email to Dr. Edgar for approval. Content warnings will be given for strong language and/or mature material.

### 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

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

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 Dr. Edgar.

### Course Schedule:

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 1 1/18-1/20	Introduction & Step-by-Step Approach to Script Analysis	From <i>Analyzing Drama</i> 1-13
Week 2 1/23-1/27	<i>Antigone</i> <i>Antigone</i> Quiz on Monday Research Topics Due on Friday	<i>Antigone</i> on D2L

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 3 1/30-2/3	Begin research "Nomadic Antigone" <i>Antigone</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	"Nomadic Antigone" on D2L
Week 4 2/6-2/10	"The Paper Moon" "Falstaff Dramatic Character in the Plays of Shakespeare" Research Paper Bibliography Due on Friday	From <i>Analyzing Drama</i> 63-65 & 72-78
Week 5 2/13-2/17	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> Quiz on Monday	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
Week 6 2/20-2/24	"Introduction: Theatre into Cinema, or Seven Adaptations (1962-1999)" <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	From <i>Analyzing Drama</i> 89-92
Week 7 2/27-3/3	<i>Three Sisters</i> <i>Three Sisters</i> Quiz on Monday Abstract and Outline for Research Paper Due on Friday	<i>Three Sisters</i> on D2L
Week 8 3/8-3/10	<i>Three Sisters</i> Script Analysis Due on Monday Midterm on Friday	
3/13-3/17	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 3/20-3/24	<i>The Crucible</i> <i>The Crucible</i> Quiz on Monday First Draft of Research Paper Due on Wednesday	<i>The Crucible</i> on D2L
Week 10 3/27-3/31	"The Crucible: Miller and Hytner" <i>The Crucible</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	From <i>Analyzing Drama</i> 102-105
Week 11 4/3-4/5	<i>Salome</i> (play) <i>Salome</i> (play) Quiz on Monday	<i>Salome</i> (play) on D2L
Week 12 4/10-4/14	"The Endless, Grisly Fascination of Richard Strauss's <i>Salome</i> " <i>Salome</i> (opera)	"The Endless, Grisly Fascination of Richard Strauss's <i>Salome</i> " <i>Salome</i> (opera) on D2L

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 13 4/17-4/21	<i>Salome</i> Script Analysis Due on Monday Second Draft of Research Paper Due on Wednesday	
Week 14 4/24-4/28	<i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> <i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> Quiz on Monday <i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	<i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> on D2L
Week 15 5/1-5/5	<i>Stop/Kiss</i> <i>Stop/Kiss</i> Quiz on Monday <i>Stop/Kiss</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	<i>Stop/Kiss</i> on D2L
Week 16 5/6	Research Paper Due by 5:30PM	

#### Important Dates

Assignment Due	Date	Percentage of Final Grace
<i>Antigone</i> Quiz	January 23, 2023	5%
Research Topics	January 27, 2023	
<i>Antigone</i> Script Analysis	February 3, 2023	5%
Bibliography	February 10, 2023	
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> Quiz	February 13, 2023	5%
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> Script Analysis	February 24, 2023	5%
<i>Three Sisters</i> Quiz	February 27, 2023	5%
Abstract and Outline	March 3, 2023	
<i>Three Sisters</i> Script Analysis	March 6, 2023	5%
Midterm	March 10, 2023	10%
<i>The Crucible</i> Quiz	March 20, 2023	5%
First Draft	March 22, 2023	
<i>The Crucible</i> Script Analysis	March 31, 2023	5%
<i>Salome</i> Quiz	April 3, 2023	5%
<i>Salome</i> Script Analysis	April 17, 2023	5%
Second Draft	April 19, 2023	

<i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> Quiz	April 24, 2023	5%
<i>The Heidi Chronicles</i> Script Analysis	April 28, 2023	5%
<i>Stop/Kiss</i> Quiz	May 1, 2023	5%
<i>Stop/Kiss</i> Script Analysis	May 5, 2023	5%
Research Paper	May 10, 2023 by 5:30PM	20%