



Dramatic Analysis

THEA 2423

Spring 2024

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 operetta. Students will write a script analysis on seven plays and one operetta, and write a research paper on a play of their choice.

Course Materials (Required)

- *Script Analysis for Theatre* by Robert Knopf
- Plays and an Operetta on D2L.

Scripts for Analysis

Antigone by Sophocles

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

The Pirates of Penzance by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Fences by August Wilson

Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley

Stop, Kiss by Diana Son

The Thanksgiving Play by Larissa Fasthose

Course Objectives

- 1) To read and analyze seven plays and one operetta from ancient Greece to now. To understand how an operetta is written.
[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 (your best six out of eight, 5% each for a total of 30%), script analysis of seven plays and one operetta (5% each for a total of 40%), a midterm exam in essay question form (10%), and a research paper (10%).

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: 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 critical essays on the play.

3. Productions: Attend both Midwestern plays this semester *Now.Here.This.* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. 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 (your best six out of eight, 5% each for a total of 30%), script analysis of seven plays and one operetta (5% each for a total of 40%), a midterm exam in essay question form (10%), and a research paper (10%).

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%

Assignments	Percentage
Quiz #2	5%
Script Analysis #2	5%
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%
Quiz #7	5%
Script Analysis #7	5%
Quiz #8	5%
Script Analysis #8	5%
Two Lowest Quizzes Dropped	-10%
Research Paper	10%
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 seven scripts and one operetta to test your thorough reading and comprehension of the plays/operetta. There will be eight quizzes and each will count as 5% of your final grade. Your two lowest quizzes will be dropped from your final grade.

Script Analysis

There will be eight 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 uploaded to D2L.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be a midterm exam in essay question form on March 8th during class time. You will receive a midterm review study guide on February 23rd and we will have a midterm review session in class on March 6th. The midterm will count as 10% of your final grade.

Research Papers

Research Papers will be due by 5:30PM on Wednesday, May 8th. 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.

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.

MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend both Midwestern plays this semester *Now.Here.This* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. 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 19, 2024

Deadline to file for graduation: February 12, 2024

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 25, 2024 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.

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](#)

Incidental Weather

If MSU campus is closed due to incidental weather, Dramatic Analysis class will meet virtually. No quizzes or exams will be given during a virtual class, but will be rescheduled for the next in-person class meeting.

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 1/16-1/19	Syllabus Review Preface, Introduction	<i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> ix-14
Week 2 1/22-1/26	The World of the Play (begin) Research Topics Due on Friday	<i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> 15-29
Week 3 1/29-2/2	The World of the Play (continued)	<i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> 29-57
Week 4 2/5-2/9	<i>Antigone</i> Quiz on Monday Begin research	<i>Antigone</i> on D2L <i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> 58-77
Week 5 2/12-2/16	<i>Antigone</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	<i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> 78-104

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 6 2/19-2/22	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Quiz on Monday	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> on D2L <i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> 104-144
Week 7 2/26-3/1	Watch <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday Abstract and Outline for Research Paper Due on Friday	
Week 8 3/4-3/8	Finish <i>Script Analysis for Theatre</i> Midterm on March 8 th Bibliography Due on Friday	
3/11-3/15	Spring Break	
Week 9 3/18-3/22	<i>The Tempest</i> Quiz on Monday First Draft of Research Paper Due on Wednesday <i>The Tempest</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	<i>The Tempest</i> on D2L
Week 10 3/25	Research Paper Meetings Creative Production Concept Project	
Week 11 4/1-4/5	<i>A Doll's House</i> Quiz on Monday <i>A Doll's House</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday Research Paper Meetings Production Concept Project	<i>A Doll's House</i> on D2L
Week 12 4/8-4/12	<i>Fences</i> Quiz on Monday <i>Fences</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday Production Concept Project Presentations	<i>Fences</i> on D2L
Week 13 4/15-4/19	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> Quiz on Monday Second Draft of Research Paper Due on Wednesday <i>Crimes of the Heart</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday	<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> on D2L
Week 14 4/22-4/26	<i>Stop/Kiss</i> Quiz on Monday <i>Stop/Kiss</i> Script Analysis Due on Friday Production Concept Project Research Paper Meetings	<i>Stop, Kiss</i> on D2L

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 15 4/29-5/3	<i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> Quiz on Monday Production Concept Project Presentations <i>The Thanksgiving Play Script Analysis</i> Due on Friday	<i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> on D2L
Week 16 5/8	Research Paper Due by 5:30PM	

Important Dates

Assignment Due	Date	Percentage of Final Grace
Research Topics	January 26, 2024	
<i>Antigone</i> Quiz	February 5, 2024	5%
<i>Antigone</i> Script Analysis	February 16, 2023	5%
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Quiz	February 19, 2024	5%
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> Script Analysis Due	March 1, 2024	5%
Abstract and Outline for Research Paper Due	March 1, 2024	
Midterm Exam	March 8, 2024	10%
Bibliography	March 8, 2024	
<i>The Tempest</i> Quiz	March 18, 2024	5%
First Draft of Research Paper Due	March 20, 2024	
<i>The Tempest</i> Script Analysis	March 22, 2024	5%
<i>A Doll's House</i> Quiz	April 1, 2024	5%
<i>A Doll's House</i> Script Analysis	April 5, 2024	5%
<i>Fences</i> Quiz	April 8, 2024	5%
<i>Fences</i> Script Analysis	April 8, 2024	5%
<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> Quiz	April 15, 2024	5%
Second Draft of Research Paper Due	April 17, 2024	
<i>Crimes of the Heart</i> Script Analysis	April 19, 2024	5%
<i>Stop, Kiss</i> Quiz	April 22, 2024	5%

<i>Stop, Kiss</i> Script Analysis	April 26, 2024	5%
<i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> Quiz	April 29, 2024	5%
<i>The Thanksgiving Play</i> Script Analysis	May 3, 2024	5%
Research Paper	May 8, 2024 by 5:30PM	20%