Script Analysis
Thea 1713-002 Fall 2019
Department of Theatre | University of Utah
T, Th/2:00 PM – 3:20 PM Building 73, Room 111

Instructor: Mark Fossen, MFA
Pronouns: he/him/his
Email: mark.fossen@utah.edu
Phone/Text: 801.380.4987
Office Hours: T, Th/3:30 PM – 4:30 PM or by appointment (Location TBD)

Course Description
In-depth analysis of play scripts in their historical and cultural contexts, with a special emphasis on the rhetorical and structural elements common to most plays. For Theatre Majors and Minors. Theatre Core Requirement.

Prerequisite: Full Major or Minor status in Theatre or Instructor Consent.

Credit Hours: 3 units

Course Objectives/Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Recognize and understand the basic principles of formalist analysis, including a specific knowledge of the steps used to break down a play.
- Learn Ball’s “trigger and heap” method of play analysis.
- Gain familiarity with multiple scripts from various periods and styles.
- Use this combined knowledge to understand a play’s construction and conceptualization.

Teaching Methods
- Students generally prepare for class by reading the textbook(s) and/or a play.
- Preparation will be measured by knowledge-based quizzes and in-class discussion.
- Classes will consist of lecture, discussion, writing prompts, small group activities, watching and discussing performances and other activities.

Required Texts
- To Be Purchased
- Available Through Library as Free eBook (Will require login)
  - *The Children*, Kirkwood ([https://tinyurl.com/y3qvnqj](https://tinyurl.com/y3qvnqj))
• Mad Forest, Churchill (https://tinyurl.com/y4v9zjdp)

• Available in Canvas as PDF
  o Riders to the Sea, Synge
  o Trifles, Glaspell
  o A Doll House, Ibsen
  o Hamlet, Shakespeare

Evaluation Methods

Participation: (30% of final grade) This course is designed to incorporate substantial in-class lectures, discussions, and activities for which you will need to be present and actively participating. According to the attendance policy, you are allotted 3 absences before this portion of your grade will be affected. *Please see the section on Attendance in the class policies. In addition, should you be non-participatory in class you will receive 3 warnings before your grade starts to be deducted.

Quizzes: (15% of final grade) Quizzes measure preparation for class and are based on readings. They test basic knowledge. These closed-book, short, multiple-choice quizzes generally occur at the top of class and are listed in the schedule. If you are not in class that day, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to make up the quiz within one week.

In-class Assignments: (15% of final grade) In-class assignments will provide opportunity to work on the concepts and principles covered in class, and will require both textbook(s) and scripts. It is your responsibility to be prepared for class each day with those items. If you are not in class that day, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to make up the quiz within one week.

Exam: (20% of final grade) There will be one midterm exam. The date is on the schedule.

Assignment: Analysis: (20% of final grade) You will create an analysis of a play of your choosing, including the preparatory work we will cover in class. We will discuss this assignment throughout the semester as we cover the expected analysis methods.

GRADE SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-87</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-80</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-77</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-70</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-67</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-64</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-61</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading will be determined by a combination of objective and subjective criteria, including attendance and class participation, performance assignments, initiative, creative effort, the quality of your work and your growth over the semester.

NOTE: Please contact me to schedule a meeting at any time during the semester to discuss your grade or any other concerns. I am here to teach, and if you let me know where you’re having trouble I will help.

Absences
Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences. Each absence after that will lower your final grade by 1/3 letter grade.

*Please note: having a medical excuse does not exempt you from the attendance policy. Each situation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

If an absence, due to extraordinary circumstances including urgent medical appointments, prolonged severe illness, or a major emergency requiring a student’s presence away from the school, occurs that takes you beyond the two (2) absence per class limit, it is your responsibility to contact me to discuss the situation and your future in the class.

If there are circumstances that require you to miss class, it is helpful for you to discuss these with me in advance or as soon as you are aware of the issue that would require you to miss class. This discussion will not be an excusal of the absence.

LATENESS: 5 minutes late marks you as tardy. Three tardies equals one absence, unless there is a specific issue you have discussed with me ahead of time. This also pertains to “leaving early”.

Recommended Performances
Seeing plays is one of the most instructive activities for any theatre artist. You need to see the shows we produce, at the very least. Tickets to our productions are free for students with a valid University ID. I will also notify you during the semester of other local productions you might want to see, many of which offer discounted student tickets.

Student Evaluations
Course evaluations are completed online. Near the end of the semester, you will receive an e-mail message that will provide a link to follow in order to complete the evaluation online, outside of class. Student evaluations provide feedback that is valuable to the instructor, and I hope that all members of the class will complete this form.

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for the course. Please note that the instructor may modify it at any time with reasonable notice to students. The instructor may also modify the Schedule at any time to accommodate the needs of the class. Should you have any questions or concerns about the syllabus, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification.
Americans with Disabilities Act
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct.
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

Campus Safety
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Diversity and Inclusivity
It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language
If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (http://writingcenter.utah.edu/); the Writing Program (http://writing-program.utah.edu/); the English Language Institute (http://continue.utah.edu/eli/). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.
LGBT Resource Center
If you are a member of the LGBTQ community, I want you to know that my classroom is a safe zone. Additionally, the U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Oplin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: http://lgbt.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

Student Names and Personal Pronouns
Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name as well as "Preferred first name" (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account, which managed can be managed at any time). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, I will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class or on assignments. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun are respected.

Veterans Center
If you are a student veteran, the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

Wellness
Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.