



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

DR 1020 (A3): Play Analysis – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Misha Albert
OFFICE: J220
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 9:00-10:00 AM or
BY APPOINTMENT

PHONE: (780)539-2836
E-MAIL: malbert@nwpolytech.ca

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: How do you turn a play into a theatre production? Students will analyze play scripts and use their imaginations to suggest possible ways to stage the plays, paying attention to dramaturgy, design, directing, and acting. Students will also attend live theatre performances to analyze design and directing decisions in action.

PREREQUISITE(S): NONE

COREQUISITE(S): NONE

REQUIRED MATERIALS: (Plays will vary, however plays will still be available online)

1. *Antigone* by Sophocles (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)
2. *A Cab Ride Home* by Theresa Gladue (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)
3. *Looking Glass Land* by James Devita (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)

4. *Paint Night* by Carey Crim (text available online/PDF available on Moodle)
5. *Tick Tick Boom* by Jonathan Larson (text available online/PDF)

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Class Discussion

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Employ a variety of play analysis tools.
2. Envision how a play works creatively in performance, based on a close reading of its text and a consideration of artistic, social, and historical contexts.
3. Examine the structure of drama, its content and meaning, and its potential life as art.
4. Analyze the playwright's point of view, as well as the artistic choices that shape a play's journey from 'page to stage'.
5. Examine the emotional, cathartic, and the "felt-experience" of the nature of drama.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Five Play Analysis	50%
Reflections	20%
Theatre Reviews	10%
Final Exam	20%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1: Introductions, Course Overview, and expectations. What is a play?
Introduction to Aristotle's Poetics and Four Causes, Elements of a Dramatic Play.

Week 2: Six Elements of a Play, Plot Analysis and Overview. Page to Stage: Design, Directing, Acting, Dramaturgy. How the Playwright's point of view comes to life.

Week 3: Reading *Antigone*. Types of Plots, Character Analysis.

Week 4: Lecture on Dramatic Genres: Drama, Tragedy, Tragedy. Reading *Antigone*.

Week 5: Lecture on performance aspects of Comedy, Lecture on French Drama.

Week 6: Reading *A Cab Ride Home*

Week 7: READING WEEK NO CLASSES

Week 8: Reading Paint Night

Week 9: Lecture on Realism: Henrik Ibsen

Week 10: Reading *excerpts from A Doll's House*

Week 11: Lecture on Realism and shift in writing styles. Reading *Tick Tick Boom*

Week 12: Introduction of Brecht: Epic and Agi-Prop Theatre

Week 13: Watching staged version of *Tick Tick Boom*.

Week 14: Theatre of the Absurd. Reading *The Room* by Harold Pinter

Week 15: Lecture and Discussion on New Play Development and Dramaturgy.
Review and Final (submitted in class on last day)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Students are expected to be fully prepared for class having done the reading assigned.
- Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Missing classes will seriously impact the student's ability to succeed in the course.
- Cell phones must be turned off and stored away during class.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day.
- Students are responsible for play admissions. Whenever possible, we will aim to attend free dress rehearsals and/or performances. If ticket price becomes an obstacle, please notify the instructor in advance so that arrangements can be made to accommodate.
- Reading aloud in class

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.