

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

DR 1020 (A2): 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 10:00 -11:00 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 required

COREQUISITE(S): None required

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

1. *Antigone* by Sophocles (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)
2. *The Outsider* by Paul Slade (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)
3. *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen (text available online/ PDF available on Moodle)
4. *The Mystery of Irma Vep – A penny dreadful* by Charles Ludlam (text available online/PDF available on Moodle)

5. *CLUE* by Sandy Rustin online/PDF available on Moodle)

6. *The Room* by Harold Pinter (text available online/PDF available on Moodle)

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%
Attendance/Participation	15%
Theatre Reviews	15%
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: Discussion (will vary, guide only)

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 *The Outsider*

Week 5: Lecture on performance aspects of a play.

Week 7: Introduction to *A Doll's House*.

Week 8: Realism. Henrik Ibsen and reading *A Doll's House*.

Week 9: Reading *A Doll's House*

Week 10: Reading *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

Week 11: READING WEEK

Week 12: Reading *CLUE*.

Week 13: Performance *CLUE* at GPLT

Week 14: Theatre of the Absurd, *The Room*

Week 15: Lecture and Discussion on New Play Development and Dramaturgy.
Review and Final Take home due (due 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 student 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.

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.

Additional Information:

Participants in DR 1020 will be attending three live theatrical performances during the semester. You will be required to write a reflection on the performances you have seen. The performances are usually the Final Dress Rehearsal before the official opening of the show. Dates will be given in advance, and every effort should be made to see the show on that day. If you are unable to attend due to a conflict, it will be on you to see the show on another night during its run. Dress Rehearsal viewings are complimentary; however a cost may be incurred if you see it on another night.