



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE –FALL 2017

DR 1020 (A2): PLAY ANALYSIS (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Rios
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OFFICE HOURS: M 3:00 – 4:00 PM / T 8:30 – 9:30 AM

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 analyse design and directing decisions in action.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: none

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1. Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman (available for purchase at the bookstore)
2. The God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza (available for purchase at the bookstore)
3. Noises Off by Michael Frayn (available for purchase at the bookstore)
4. Chicago book by Fred Ebb & Bob Fosse (available for purchase at the bookstore)
5. The Shape of a Girl by Joan MacLeod (available for purchase at the bookstore)

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Class Discussion

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Through Play Analysis, students will gain understanding on how to examine theatrical narrative through history, cultural context, structure, genre, and form, as well as the playwright's point of view.

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:

UA, UC*, UL*, AU, AF, CU, KUC

* An asterisk (*) beside any transfer institution indicates important transfer information. Consult the Alberta Transfer Guide.

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

** 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:

Four Play Analysis Reflections	40%
Group PowerPoint presentation	30%
Final Exam	30%

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities 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	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		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:

Drama 1020 – Play Styles and Analysis Course Outline (Subject to Change)

Date	In-Class Activities	Assignments & Deadlines
Thursday, August 31st	Introductions Course overview & expectations What is a play? Introduction to Aristotle’s “Poetics” and Four Causes	*Note: Begin reading <i>Metamorphoses</i> for upcoming class discussion
Tuesday, September 5th	Aristotle’s “Poetics” (continued) The Six Elements of a Play Dramatic Action	*Note: In class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentations may begin as early as Tuesday, September 12 th .
Thursday, September 7th	Review of The Six Elements of a Play (Q & A) Plot Analysis and Overview (cont.) *Metamorphoses Presentation Groups assigned	
Tuesday, September 12th	Page to Stage: Design, Directing, Acting, Dramaturgy – How the Playwright’s point of view comes to life	
Thursday, September 14th	In class group work period for <i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation	*Note: <u>Tentative - On Saturday, Sept. 30th</u> (evening), we will be attending GPLT’s dress rehearsal and Q & A of <i>Habit of Murder</i> by Joanne Miller (directed by Wayne Ayling).
Tuesday, September 19th	Types of Plots Character Analysis Dramatic Metaphor	
Thursday, September 21st	Lecture on Dramatic Genres: Drama, Tragedy, Tragicomedy, etc.	*Note: Please have <i>Metamorphoses</i> entirely read before Tuesday, September 26 th .
Tuesday, September 26th	Discussion of Adaptation Discussion of <i>Metamorphoses</i> *If time permits, in class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	
Thursday, September 28th	Lecture on performance aspects of Comedy	*Note: Read <i>The God of Carnage</i> and complete Play Analysis Worksheet for in class discussion
Saturday, September 30th	<u>Tentative:</u> Attendance of GPLT’s performance and Q & A of <i>Habit of Murder</i> by Joanne Miller (directed by Wayne Ayling).	

Tuesday, October 3 rd	In class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation	
Thursday, October 5 th	Lecture on performance aspects of Farce *If time permits, in-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	
Tuesday, October 10 th	Watch film <i>Carnage in class</i> (1 hr./20 mins.)	*Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>The God of Carnage</i> due on Tuesday, October 17 th at 4:30pm.
Thursday, October 12 th	In-class discussion of <i>The God of Carnage</i> (discuss play analysis worksheets) *If time permits, in-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	
Tuesday, October 17 th	In class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation	*Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>The God of Carnage</i> due today at 4:30pm.
Thursday, October 19 th	Lecture on performance aspects of Melodrama/Suspense In-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	
Tuesday, October 24 th	Classifying Subgenres through analysis Style - The world of the play If time permits, in-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	*Note: Read <i>Noises Off</i> and complete Play Analysis Worksheet for in class discussion on October 31 st
Thursday, October 26 th	Watch film <i>Noises Off in class</i> (1 hr. / 15 mins.)	*Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Noises Off</i> due on Thursday, November 2 nd at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, October 31 st	Finish watching <i>Noises off</i> film In-class discussion of <i>Noises Off</i> (discuss analysis worksheets) If time permits, in-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	
Thursday, November 2 nd	Introduction to Brecht: Epic & Agit-Prop Theatre If time permits, in-class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	*Note: Read <i>Chicago</i> and complete Play Analysis worksheet for in class discussion on Tuesday, November 14 th *Note: <i>Noises Off</i> Play Analysis Reflection due today at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, November 7 th	In class group work – Wrap up for group <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentations	
Thursday, November 9 th	Watch film <i>Chicago</i> in class	*Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Chicago</i> due on Tuesday, November 16 th at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, November 14 th	Finish watching film <i>Chicago</i>	

	In-class discussion of <i>Chicago</i> (discuss analysis worksheets)	
Thursday, November 16 th	Group 1 Presentation (TBA) Lecture on performance aspects of Musical Theatre (part 1)	* Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Chicago</i> due today at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, November 21 st	Group 2 Presentation (TBA)	* Note: Read <i>Shape of a Girl</i> and complete Play Analysis worksheet for in class discussion on Tuesday, November 28 th
Thursday, November 23 rd	Group 3 Presentation (TBA) Lecture and Discussion on Verbatim, Forum, Theatre for Community Development and Social Change	* Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Shape of a Girl</i> due on Thursday, November 30 th at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, November 28 th	In-class discussion of <i>Shape of a Girl</i> (discuss analysis worksheets) ** Tentative - 7:30pm Dress rehearsal for <i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> scheduled for this evening at GPLT. (followed by a Q & A with director and cast)	* Note: We will meet at GPLT at 7:00pm to attend the 7:30pm dress rehearsal.
Thursday, November 30 th	Lecture and Discussion on New Play Development and Dramaturgy	* Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Shape of a Girl</i> due today at 4:30pm.
Tuesday, December 5 th	Independent Study Period	Study for Exam
Thursday, December 7 th	Final Exam Review	
TBA	FINAL EXAM	

Summary of Due Dates:

God of Carnage

Play Analysis Reflection – Tuesday, October 17th by 4:30pm

Noises Off

Play Analysis Reflection – Thursday, November 2nd by 4:30pm

Chicago

Play Analysis Reflection – Thursday, November 16th by 4:30pm

The Shape of a Girl

Play Analysis Reflection – Thursday, November 30th by 4:30pm

Metamorphoses Group Presentations

Thursday, November 16th, Tuesday, November, 31st, and Thursday, November 23rd

**Note: The Play Analysis Worksheets are not graded assignments, but rather, they are tools to assist in both the comprehension of the plays assigned and the writing of the Play Analysis Reflection assignments. These worksheets will be available on your Moodle Companion Site.*

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.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Theatre Season for Grande Prairie Live Theatre:

Habit of Murder	Sept. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, Oct. 5, 6, 7
Butcher	Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11
The 25 th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Family Friendly Version Nov. 30, Dec. 8 Dec. 10
The Children's Hour	Feb. 22, 23, 24, March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
Vanya & Masha & Sonia & Spike	April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
Little Women (the musical)	May 24, 25, 26, June 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9
Babe The Sheep Pig	Jan. 26, 27, 28, Feb. 2, 3, 4