



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2018

DR 1020 (A3): PLAY ANALYSIS – 3(3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle Rios
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OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: How do you turn a play into a theatre production? What is the playwright's point of view? Students will analyze play scripts and use their imaginations to suggest possible ways to stage 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)/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, CUC, GMU, KUC

***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%
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 (Subject to Change):

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

Date	In-Class Activities	Assignments & Deadlines
Thursday, January 4 th	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, January 9 th	Aristotle’s “Poetics” (continued) The Six Elements of a Play Dramatic Action	
Thursday, January 11 th	Review of The Six Elements of a Play (Q & A) Plot Analysis and Overview (cont.) <i>*Metamorphoses</i> PowerPoint Presentations assigned	
Tuesday, January 16 th	Page to Stage: Design, Directing, Acting, Dramaturgy – How the Playwright’s point of view comes to life	
Thursday, January 18 th	In class work period for <i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation	
Tuesday, January 23 rd	Types of Plots Character Analysis Dramatic Metaphor	
Thursday, January 25 th	Lecture on Dramatic Genres: Drama, Tragedy, Tragicomedy, etc.	*Note: Please have <i>Metamorphoses</i> entirely read before in-class discussion on Tuesday, January 30 th .
Tuesday, January 30 th	Lecture on Adaptation Discussion of <i>Metamorphoses</i> <i>*If time permits, in class work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation</i>	
Thursday, February 1 st	Lecture on performance aspects of Comedy	*Note: Read <i>The God of Carnage</i> and complete Play Analysis Worksheet for in class discussion on Thurs. Feb. 15 th
Tuesday, February 6 th	In class group work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation	
Thursday, February 8 th	Lecture on performance aspects of Farce <i>*If time permits, in-class work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation</i>	
Tuesday, February 13 th	Watch film <i>Carnage</i> in class (1 hr./20 mins.)	*Note: Play Analysis Reflection for <i>The God of Carnage</i> due on Tuesday, February 20 th by 4:30pm.
Thursday, February 15 th	In-class discussion of <i>The God of Carnage</i> Lecture on performance aspects of Melodrama/Suspense	
	READING WEEK – FEB. 19TH – FEB. 23RD (No Class)	

Tuesday, February 27 th	In-class work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	** <u>Tentative</u> – Friday, March 2 nd or Saturday, March 3 rd evening performance of <i>The Children’s Hour</i> at GPLT (TBA)
Thursday, March 1 st	Classifying Subgenres through analysis Style - The world of the play *If time permits, in-class work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	* <u>Note</u> : Read <i>Noises Off</i> and complete Play Analysis Worksheet for in class discussion on March 8 th
Tuesday, March 6 th	Watch film <i>Noises Off</i> in class (1 hr. / 15 mins.)	* <u>Note</u> : Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Noises Off</i> due on Tuesday, March 13 th by 4:30pm.
Thursday, March 8 th	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	
Tuesday, March 13 th	Introduction to Brecht: Epic & Agit-Prop Theatre *If time permits, in-class work for <i>Metamorphoses</i> presentation	* <u>Note</u> : Read <i>Chicago</i> and complete Play Analysis worksheet for in class discussion on Tuesday, March 20 th * <u>Note</u> : <i>Noises Off</i> Play Analysis Reflection due today by 4:30pm.
Thursday, March 15 th	Watch film <i>Chicago</i> in class	* <u>Note</u> : Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Chicago</i> due on Thursday, March 22 nd by 4:30pm.
Tuesday, March 20 th	Finish watching film <i>Chicago</i> In-class discussion of <i>Chicago</i> (discuss analysis worksheets)	
Thursday, March 22 nd	<i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation (TBA) Lecture on performance aspects of Musical Theatre (part 1)	* <u>Note</u> : Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Chicago</i> due today by 4:30pm
Tuesday, March 27 th	<i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation (TBA) Lecture on performance aspects of Musical Theatre (cont.)	* <u>Note</u> : Read <i>Shape of a Girl</i> and complete Play Analysis worksheet for in class discussion on Tuesday, April 3 rd
Thursday, March 29 th	<i>Metamorphoses</i> Presentation (TBA) Lecture and Discussion on Verbatim, Forum, Theatre for Community Development and Social Change	* <u>Note</u> : Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Shape of a Girl</i> due on Thursday, April 5 th by 4:30pm. ** <u>Tentative</u> - Dress rehearsal for <i>Vanya & Masha & Sonia & Spike</i> at GPLT (TBA)
Tuesday, April 3 rd	In-class discussion of <i>Shape of a Girl</i> (discuss analysis worksheets)	
Thursday, April 5 th	Lecture and Discussion on New Play Development and Dramaturgy	* <u>Note</u> : Play Analysis Reflection for <i>Shape of a Girl</i> due today by 4:30pm.
Tuesday, April 10 th	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	

Thursday, April 12th	Wrap up class	
TBA	FINAL EXAM	*Exact date and time of final exam will be announced in class and posted on Moodle.

Summary of Due Dates:

God of Carnage

Play Analysis Reflection – Tuesday, February 20th by 4:30pm

Noises Off

Play Analysis Reflection – Tuesday, March 13th by 4:30pm

Chicago

Play Analysis Reflection – Thursday, March 22nd by 4:30pm

The Shape of a Girl

Play Analysis Reflection – Thursday, April 5th by 4:30pm

Metamorphoses Presentations (TBA)

Thursday, March 22nd, Tuesday, March 27th, and Thursday, March 29th

**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:

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