

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA 201

INTRODUCTION TO PLAY ANALYSIS U.T. 3(3-0-0)

Instructor: Karla Parks
Office: L112
Telephone: 539-2904

Description:

Understanding of drama through critical analysis of plays. Development of analytical techniques and strategies designed to enhance the appreciation of drama.

Objectives:

1. To provide understanding of drama through critical analysis of plays.
2. To enhance the student's grasp of the structure and felt-experience of drama, its content and meaning, and its potential life as art.
3. To enhance the student's appreciation of drama, both written and performed.

Syllabus:

1. The nature of dramatic art.
2. The elements of drama: plot, character, thought, diction, rhythm or music, and spectacle.
3. Topics central to drama: action, theme, genre (tragedy, comedy, melodrama, etc.)
4. Types and techniques of analysis.

Techniques:

1. Lectures, discussion, audio-visual illustrations.
2. Seminar discussions. Students will be presented with a topic well in advance and will be expected to be prepared to contribute intelligently to the discussion. Because this is an oral project with grading based on participation (quantity and quality), absences result in a failing grade for that seminar.
3. Reading and writing analyses of assigned plays.
4. Attendance at, and written review of, performed plays.

Evaluation:

Tests	15%
Seminar Participation	25%
Theatre Review	10%
Structural Analysis Project (In class presentation)	20%
Research Paper/Project	30%
	100%

DRAMA 201 emphasizes the study of drama as practical art rather than literature; plays are studied in the context of production. Written work consists of: 1) a structural analysis of a full-length play, 2) a research paper, and 3) a review of a theatrical production. There will be three short tests. Occasional minor assignments may be required in preparation for seminar discussions. A few visual projects in costume and set design may also be required for seminar discussions. In these cases, it is not expected that Drama 201 students demonstrate excellent drawing or design skills. Of interest is the strength of imagination and concept rather than technical presentation skills.

Reading of Plays:

Students are expected to read the assigned plays **before** the classes in which they will be discussed. As preparation for the class (and as a study resource) it is suggested that students keep notes based on their reading. The following areas would be worthwhile:

1. What is the subject matter or plot of the play?
2. How does the subject matter lead to ideas and themes of the play?
3. How does the mise-en-scene contribute to theme?
4. What seem to be the motivations of the principal characters?
5. How would the play appeal to a contemporary audience? (Or how could it be made more appealing to a contemporary audience?)
6. Is there anything unusual about the structure of the play?
7. Are there any aspects of the play that would be important to production which are notably lacking in printed form?