Theatre 4
Script Analysis
Spring 2013

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Syllabus

Course Description

This seminar teaches you how to read a play, understand the structure of a play, and examine the interrelationship of a script’s many parts in order to begin the “page to stage” translation process that is essential to theatrical production. Through lectures, discussions, written assignments, projects, and considering the perspective of actors, directors, and designers, this class investigates the characters, thought, plot/structure, diction, song, and spectacle of different play scripts as a way of exploring various ways to analyze a script. By the end of the semester, you will be able to apply Aristotle’s *Six Elements of Tragedy* to your interpretation of play scripts as literary, social/cultural, and performance texts that act as blueprints for production.
Course Requirements

1. Two in-class examinations. **30%**
2. Three announced quizzes based on the required course reading assignments. **25%**
3. Semester Project. **30%**
4. Participation/in-class discussion. **15%**
5. Attendance. Carries a separate grade. To be specific, after **TWO** unexcused absences, your final grade will be dropped by a **FULL** grade per absence. Each **TARDY ARRIVAL** will equal ½ an absence.

Make up examinations and quizzes are not allowed.

Required Texts

1. *Aristotle’s Poetics*, Kenneth McLeish, Translator
2. *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
3. *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
4. *Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegría Hudes

(All texts are available at The Hornet University Bookstore)

Classroom Etiquette
Cell phones are not allowed. Please make sure to turn off all cellular gadgets and portable listening devices when entering the classroom environment. Likewise, all forms of “texting” are prohibited, and laptop usage is solely restricted to course based assignments. Disruptive behavior includes: arriving to class late; leaving the seminar before the conclusion of each session, and talking during lectures and class presentations. In short, you are expected to act professionally and respect each member of the seminar. Any student will be dismissed if these classroom etiquette rules are not respected.

Semester Schedule

January

M28
Introductory Comments
W30
Aristotle’s Poetics, Discussion
Reading Due: Introduction (VI-XIV) and Pp. 3-9

February

M4
Aristotle’s Poetics, Discussion
Reading Due: Pp. 9-27

W6
Given Circumstances, Discussion

M11
Aristotle’s Poetics, Discussion
Reading Due: Pp. 27-42
W13
Structure of Action, Discussion

M18
First Examination/Discussion

W20
*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles, Discussion
Reading Due: *Oedipus Rex*

M25
*Oedipus Rex*, Discussion

W27
Film-*Oedipus Rex*, Director, Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1967
Part I

March

M4
Film-*Oedipus Rex*—Part II; Discussion.

W6
Semester Project--Planning Process and Discussion

M11
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, Discussion
Reading Due: Acts I, II and III

W13
*Hamlet*, Discussion
Reading Due: Acts IV and V

M18
Film Clips

*Hamlet*, Director, Laurence Olivier, 1948

*Hamlet*, Director, Franco Zeffirelli, 1990

Discussion

W20

Film Clips

*Hamlet*, Director, Michael Almereyda, 2000

Robert Wilson’s *HAMLET: a monologue*, 1995

Discussion

Spring Recess—March 25-31

April

M1

*César Chávez Day—No Class*

W3

Second Examination

Root Action Statements, Discussion

M8

Scenic Units or Beats, Discussion

W10

Beats, Discussion

Film Clip

*The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter

Director, Peter Hall, 1973

M15

Production Metaphor, Discussion

Film Clip
A Midsummer’s Night Dream by Shakespeare
Director, Adrian Noble, 1996

W17
Production Metaphor, Discussion
Film Clip
Richard III by Shakespeare
Director, Richard Loncraine, 1995

M22
Water by the Spoonful by Quiara Alegría Hudes, Discussion

W24
Water by the Spoonful, Discussion

M29
Analytical Thinking and Creative Thinking, Discussion

May

W1
Semester Project Presentations

M6
Semester Project Presentations

W8
Semester Project Presentations

M13
Semester Project Presentations

W15
Semester Project Presentations
Final Exam/Semester Projects Presentations—Monday, May 20, 3-5 PM