

**Script Analysis: - 21812 - THEA 3312 - W01**

**SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>PROFESSOR:</b>	<b>Ross Fleming</b>	<b>Office:</b>	FAB 203A
<b>Phone:</b>	325-374-9681	<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWF 3:00 -3:50
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*\*AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS OR BY APPOINTMENT ONLY*

**Required Text:** Thomas, James, Script Analysis for Actors, Directors and Designers, 5th Edition, Focal Press, 978-0-415-66325-0

**Other reading:** Albee, Edward, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, NAL Trade, ISBN-10: 0451218590

**Course Overview:**

This course is required for all students majoring in theatre and is designed to teach the technical and theoretical skills of script analysis using a formalist approach. The course offers general guidelines for reading and thinking about plays and understanding the basic potentials of a play's construction.

**Course Objectives:**

- To introduce students to the history and methodology of formalist play analysis
- To provide students opportunities to apply formalist play analysis to modern and contemporary playscripts
- To convey the relevance of formalist play analysis to all disciplines in theatre (i.e., acting, directing, design, dramaturgy, criticism, etc.)

**Basic Philosophy**

It is my responsibility and desire to help you learn and to help you enjoy your learning experience. I will go to great lengths to assist you, as long as you give me your best effort. If something does not make sense, ask questions. The best information in the world on any topic is useless if it is not communicated clearly and digested thoroughly and practically. I wish to make this an exciting experience for you and I hope you contribute all you can so that this WILL happen. If you need to see me, I am available by phone, e-mail or appointment.

**Course Requirements: / Grading:**

**Evaluation Criteria**

Participation	20%	80pts
Chapter Analyses (10)	50%	200pts
Final Analysis	20%	80pts
Play Attendance	5%	20pts
Quiz	5%	20pts

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>400pts</b>
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**Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance is required. Class participation is essential to this course--as well as your grade. Those who do not attend regularly and promptly will not succeed. Because emergencies occur, your first 3 unexcused absences will not affect your final grade. Each subsequent absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one-

third of a letter grade (approx. 30 points). Absences may be counted as excused **only** under the following conditions and with proper documentation:

1. **University approved/sponsored athletic, forensic, and similar trips (arranged IN ADVANCE through a memo from the faculty sponsor).**
2. **Illness that results in a doctor's visit—or the University Clinic (verified by a doctor's note or copy of the bill showing the date).**
3. **Death in the family or other catastrophe (verified with appropriate documentation)**

Participation in class discussions is imperative. As in any discussion, willingness to participate is the key to understanding and accepting different points of view, criticism, and basic understanding of the relevant material.

#### **Classroom Work:**

Classes will be composed of lectures, presentations, evaluation of projects, It is your responsibility to read the class assignments for the day.

#### **Class Projects:**

##### **Assignments**

Assignments are due on dates designated by the instructor. Only in extreme cases will late work be accepted and on such occasions letter grades may be deducted accordingly. Individual students must take the initiative to make arrangements for makeup assignments and it is the sole discretion of the instructor as to whether or not such leeway will be granted.

#### **Assignments will consist of the following:**

**Individual analyses** of the following areas for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*: Given Circumstances, Background Story, External and Internal Action, Progression and Structure, Character, Idea, Dialogue, Tempo/Rhythm/Mood, Style, and an Action Analysis. These will be submitted via email. (20 pts ea.; 200 pts total)

**Final Analysis.** An action analysis following the prescribed methodology focusing on a full-length play chosen from the approved list of plays supplied with this syllabus. The analysis should be written in essay form. This will likewise be submitted via printed copy and email. (80pts)

**Quiz.** A written analysis over material presented in the PowerPoint covering the introduction of the textbook and information regarding mise en scene. (20pts.)

**Students are required to attend the following productions:** Silent Sky presented by the SRSU .(20 pts total)

**THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE.**

Possible plays for final project:

1. *One Flea Spare* by Naomi Wallace
2. *Jesus Hopped the A-Train* by Stephen Adly Guirgis
3. *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl
4. *Topdog Underdog* by Suzan Lori Parks
5. *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz
6. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams
7. *Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet
8. *Closer* by Patrick Marber
9. *The Price* by Arthur Miller
10. *Fences* by August Wilson

11. *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts
12. *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl
13. *God of Carnage* by Yasmine Reza  
-You can ask to analyze a different play upon instructors approval.

### **SYLLABUS/COURSE CONTENT:**

The information in the syllabus, other than grade and absence policies, may be subject to change as to meet the needs of this particular class with reasonable advance notice. Course content, including lectures, are copyrighted material and students may not sell notes taken during the conduct of the course.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

#### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

In the interest of fairness to all students, everyone shall have equal time to prepare for assignments. Projects are usually assigned several weeks before due. Students should plan their research and use time wisely to complete timely assignments. All assignments are considered late if they are not turned in on the day when due in the appropriately specified format. The department will not print any project for you.

Accepting late assignments is a courtesy. You are studying a subject in the entertainment industry, one built on meeting deadlines. That being said if you do not have your assignment on the day it is due you have until the end of the business day to turn it into the instructor's mail box in the the FAB Office. If you wait to turn it in on the next day you will receive 80% credit; if you wait for the next class day you will receive 50%. You are advised to hand in assignments, since the final grade is based on total points earned. Few points are more valuable than no points at all. All graded activities including exams must be performed on dates assigned unless there is official medical, legal or related documentation that indicates the student was incapacitated.

#### **SPECIAL COURSE NOTES:**

Some subject matter discussed in the course may be found offensive. Please note that all material covered is presented as a scholarly investigation for analysis and discussion. Should a film be presented to the class, please note that it does not reflect the views of the Instructor, Department or SRSU. Students will be provided with fair warning of the aforementioned.

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT AND ETHICS:**

It is expected that any work done for this class is originally done by the student and is for this class. Any form of plagiarism is subject to strong disciplinary action and can lead to dismissal. All students as part of their obligation to the University assume the responsibility to exhibit in their academic performance the qualities of honesty and integrity. All forms of student dishonesty, which may include but not be limited to; cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action. Students are responsible for all material, in the syllabus, notes, handouts, announcements and other information given in class, even if they are not in attendance. Do not expect the instructor to give an individualized lecture if you miss class. Further, you are responsible for getting to class on time, and for being prepared. Please give to others the courtesy of listening attentively while they are speaking.

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/INTEGRITY:**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. <https://library.sulross.edu/research-basics/about-plagiarism/>

#### **ACADEMIC RIGOR:**

Academic rigor means a consistent expectation of excellence and aspiration to significant achievement. It should pervade the entire atmosphere of the University--teaching and learning, curriculum, evaluation of students and faculty, outreach, admissions, advising, and student life.

#### **TAPING OF CLASSROOM LECTURES:**

1. Faculty members are, by law, afforded copyright protection in their classroom lectures and, therefore, may limit the circumstances under which students may tape (both audio & video) classes, as well as photograph or use materials outside of the classroom.
2. Each faculty member shall inform his or her student within the first week of class as to his or her policy with regard to taping. Failure to do so will accord students the right to tape lectures.
3. Students with disabilities that render them unable to take adequate lecture notes are entitled to reasonable accommodation.
4. **Note Well: There is to be no audio and video recording of this class.**

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze-Grisham, M. Ed., LPC., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail: [mschwartze@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu).

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND MANDATORY REPORTING**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as Faculty. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Student Counseling Services 432.837.8203; Ferguson Hall Room 112

. Information on campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available here:

<https://www.sulross.edu/sexual-misconduct-resources>

#### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Visit:

<https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>

#### **COURSE CALENDAR *Updates will be discussed in class***