

Instructor Name: John S Davies  
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**Script Analysis**  
**SCPT 201**  
**30 Contact Hours**  
**2 Semester Credit Hours**

**I. Description**

This course develops students' textual and interpretive skills. The ability to read and interpret a script is as critical to the acting process as the physical skills of acting. This course covers the 6 elements of drama identified by Aristotle (The Poetics) as well as basic narrative structure. Through practical application to theater and film scripts, students will develop the ability to understand different script forms. They will also develop their critical thinking skills as they learn how stories are told.

**II. Objectives**

At the completion of this course, students will understand and be able to identify how a story is structured and how their work as actors fits into that structure. They will also expand their vocabulary of industry specific terms like beats, character objectives, action verbs, exposition, and foreshadowing and how these can be tools for scene and character analysis. Additionally, the student will have increased awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of theatre and film, as well as the importance of adding knowledge and experience to imagination in understanding and acting in a play.

**III. Scans**

The curriculum of KD Studio is designed to validate the competencies recommended by the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS).

**COMPETENCY REFERENCE SCALE**

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| 1. Reading                   |
| 2. Writing                   |
| 3. Arithmetic or Mathematics |
| 4. Speaking and Listening    |
| 5. Thinking Skills           |
| 6. Personal Qualities        |
| 7. Workplace Competencies    |
| 8. Basic Use of Computers    |

The objectives for this course meet the following competencies: 1,2,4,5,6,7,8.

**IV. Textbook**

Literature text  
Action: The Actor's Thesaurus

**V. Teaching Strategies**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Group Problem Solving
- D. Standard Table Work employed in most professional theatre rehearsal processes. Table Work Includes:
  - Breaking Scenes into French Scenes
  - Discussing Beats
  - Exploring the World of the play and how it affects each character
  - Character Analysis
  - Discussion of Theme
- E. Written assignments

**VI. Outline of Course** (see attached course outline)

**VII. Requirements**

- A. The student must pass the course with at least a 65.
- B. Some homework will be required. Students are expected to turn in all homework assignments on the due date. Students should expect to spend 4 hours a week on work outside class
- C. Students must attend and participate in class in order to pass. Attendance and participation constitutes 50% of the student's grade. Attendance means attending the full two hour class.
- D. Students will attend two professional theater performances and write a two page paper on the themes and structure of the show with a particular focus on the character conflicts.
- E. The final exam in this class will consist of 3 essay questions.

**9. Student Conduct**

The College expects you to conduct yourself in the manner that is appropriate in today's professional work environment. Your classroom instructor is the person in charge in this class, and you are to follow any instructions he or she may give you. Students displaying unprofessional behavior may be asked to leave class and take an absence or see the dean.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom (i.e. inappropriate talking, leaving the classroom without permission, etc.) will not be tolerated and will have an adverse effect on a student's participation portion of the semester grade.

**10. Faculty Commitment**

Tests and normal projects will be graded within one week. Faculty will be available to answer questions. Students needing additional assistance may set up an appointment.

## **11. Evaluation**

2 papers 25%

Final: 25%

Attendance and Participation: 50%

**Total: 100%**

### **Grading Scale**

A = 90-100 %

B = 80-89 %

C = 70-79 %

D = 65-69 %

F = 64 % or below

\*\*Syllabus or Course Outline are subject to change without prior notice to the student as instructor deems necessary.