

THEA 1440: Play Analysis

100% Online

Instructor Information

Name: Dori Leeman

Email: Dori.leeman@unt.edu

Office Hours: Virtual via Zoom by appointment only

Dance and Theatre Office located in RTFP Building 242

Course Description

Play analysis is a course that trains theatre (and film) artists to dissect plays and scripts and reassemble them for production. The goal of this class is to be able to analyze scripts to present the playwright's story to an audience. Analysis equips artists to discover what the playwright has dramatized and how to best realize their work on stage in a clear, powerful, and imaginative manner. In essence, analysis answers the question: How do we most effectively tell the story?

This course will take place 100% online with weekly modules and assignment due dates.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Co 1. Identify different approaches to analyzing a script

Co 2. Discuss how to apply analysis to a variety of scripts and the impact on artistic choices

Co 3. Critically analyze different scripts with a formalized approach

Co 4. Justify personal interpretation of analysis and specific production choices that evolve from that analysis

Required/Recommended Materials

Required Textbook: Thomas, J. (2023). Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers (7th ed.). Routledge. ISBN-10: 103238204X (purchase through the bookstore or Amazon—kindle version available)

Required Plays:

Trifles by Susan Glaspell (e-book: <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b2698109>)

Florence by Alice Childress (Purchase or On Reserve in UNT Library)

Overtones by Alice Gerstenberg (e-book: <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b1643460>)

Gidion's Knot by Johnna Adams (e-book: <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b7670922>)

Pipeline by Dominique Morisseau (e-book: <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b7670923>)

Water by the Spoonful (e-book provided)

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom by Jennifer Haley (Purchase or On Reserve through UNT Library)

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller (e-book: <https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b7670924>)

Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (Purchase or on Reserve at UNT library)

Technology requirements for courses with digital materials:

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need reliable internet access in order to access content on the Canvas Learning Management System and working computer speakers in order to listen to pre-recorded lectures. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

Technical Assistance:

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustrations that can arise when technology does not perform as expected.

Please utilize the Student Help Desk for assistance with Canvas or technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Walk-In Availability: 8am-5pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help

Attendance and Participation

Even though his class is fully online, your weekly engagement is necessary to be successful. I have great respect for the fact that many of you are balancing the demands of coursework with other responsibilities. If you run into challenges that require you to miss assignments, please contact me so I can assist you.

Quizzes do not reopen, regardless of the reason missed due to the fact that they are open for an entire week, and you have two attempts. Exams also do not reopen once closed since they are open for an extended period of time.

How to Succeed in this Course

Communication: Communication is extremely important in an online class. If you are struggling, try to email me as soon as you can so that I can help you. I am available to meet via zoom during office hours or at a different scheduled time. I have been teaching online classes for a long time, so I understand the challenges, and I want to work with you to be successful in this class.

Office hours offer you an opportunity for additional support and connection. I encourage you to connect with me. You will receive 1 bonus point for meeting with me in the beginning of the semester via zoom! Simply email me to let me know which date you will be attending.

I check email once a day and make every attempt to reply within 24 hours. I attempt to check email once during the weekend, but please know that if you email me Friday night, I may not get that email until Monday morning. Also, if you email me late on Sunday about an assignment due that day, I may not get it in time. Try to check assignments before their due date to prevent this from happening.

Grading/feedback: I make every attempt to have Discussion Boards graded within 1 weeks from due date. Analysis assignments may take up to 2 weeks. Quizzes and tests are graded automatically, unless there is a short answer question, which I grade manually once all quizzes/tests are submitted.

Late assignments are only accepted in extremely rare circumstances. No makeups for missed quizzes or tests. This includes issues with technology, so plan ahead. Always call ITS if you have technology issues. They will be able to assist you better than I can.

ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member

prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement

Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the different perspectives each of you bring to class. Let's work together to cultivate a culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be civil and courteous. Disagreement and debate is welcome; however, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming online environment. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please email me or meet with me in my virtual office hours.

Assessing Your Work

Graded Assignments:

There are four main categories of grades in this course: Reading Quizzes, Discussion Boards, Written Analyses, and a Midterm & Final Exam. All material submitted should be your original work that you create by yourself for this course (see course policies about plagiarism). You will collaborate with a partner on a few assignments, primarily for feedback.

Quizzes, class discussions, and exams ensure that you read, listen to the lectures, and understand the material. Analysis assignments challenge you to apply and respond to the ideas and perspectives we cover. These assignments are a different kind of writing—a more individualized, exploratory engagement with the texts, themes, and viewpoints of the plays and class material.

Grade Breakdown

Syllabus Quiz	10
Intro Discussion	10
Quizzes 4 @ 20 points apiece	80
Discussion Boards 3 @ 25	75
Analysis 2 @ 50	100
Midterm Analysis	75

Final Exam	50
Final Analysis	100
Total	500

Final grade breakdown for points earned:

A = 500 - 450 points B = 449 – 400 points
D = 349 – 300 points F = 299 and below

C = 399 – 350 points

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Module	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Points Possible
Week 1	8/19-8/25	Intro to Class Play Analysis Intro Lecture	1) Syllabus Quiz 2) Watch Lecture 3) Intro Discussion All Due 8/25 @ 11:59pm	Syllabus Quiz: 10 Points Intro Discussion: 10 Points

Module	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Points Possible
Week 2	8/26-9/1	"EF's Visit to a Small Planet" Lecture	1) Read <i>EF's Visit</i> Article 2) Read <i>Trifles</i> 3) Watch Lecture 4) Complete Discussion Board #1 All Due 9/1 @ 11:59pm	Discussion #1: 25 Points
Week 3	9/2-9/8	Aristotle's Elements Lecture	1) Read <i>Overtones</i> 2) Watch Lecture All Due 9/8	Reading Quiz #1: 20 Points Covers Modules 1-3
Week 4	9/9-9/15	Formula Plot Lecture Analysis #1 Lecture	1) Read <i>Florence</i> 2) Watch Two Lectures 3) Analysis #1 All Due 9/15	Analysis #1: 50 Points
Week 5	9/16-9/22	Foundations of the Plot Part 1: Given Circumstances Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 1 2) Read <i>Gidion's Knot</i> 3) Watch Lecture All Due 9/22	No Assessment this Week, but will be Included next week.
Week 6	9/23-9/29	Foundations of the Plot Part 2: Background Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 2 2) Read <i>Pipeline</i> 3) Watch Lecture 4) Discussion Board #2 All Due 9/29	Discussion #2: 25 Points
Week 7	9/30-10/6	Action Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 3 3) Reading Quiz 2 All Due 10/6	Reading Quiz # 2: 20 Points Covers Modules 4-7
Week 8	10/7-10/13	Plot Structure Lecture Midterm Analysis Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 4 2) Complete Midterm Analysis All Due 10/13	Midterm Analysis (Analysis #2): 50 points

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Points Possible
Week 9	10/14-10/20	Hornby Part 1: 7 Qs Lecture	1) Read <i>Water by the Spoonful</i> 2) Watch Lecture All due 10/20	
Week 10	10/21-10/27	Hornby Part 2: UP	1) Read <i>Neighborhood 3</i> 2) Watch Lecture 3) Discussion 3 All due 10/27	Discussion #3: 25 Points
Week 11	10/28-11/3	Hornby Part 3: 7Qs +UP	1) Watch Lecture 2) Reading Quiz #3 All due 11/3	Reading Quiz #3 20 Points Covers Mod 9-11
Week 12	11/4-11/10	Idea Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 6 2) Read <i>Death of a Salesman</i> 2) Watch Lecture All Due 11/10	
Week 13	11/11-11/17	Style, Selective Realism & Post-Modern Lecture Analysis #3 Lecture	1) Read Thomas Text Chapter 9 2) Watch Lectures 3) Analysis #3 All due 11/17	Analysis #3 50 Points
Week 14	11/18-11/24	Final Analysis Lecture	1) Read <i>Everybody</i> 2) Watch Lecture	Reading Quiz #4 20 Points Covers Mod 11-14
Week 15	11/25-12/1	Thanksgiving Week		
Week 16	12/2-12/8	Final Analysis Work Week	1) Final Analysis Due 12/8	Final Analysis: 100 Points
Finals Week	12/9-12/13	Final Exam	1) Final Exam Due Covers all material this semester	Final Exam: 50 Points

Please note: Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact class:
[Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy \(PDF\)](#)

UNT Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the

student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate. [Academic Integrity Policy \(PDF\)](#)

Please see additional UNT policies and procedures on the [Student Support Services & Policies](#) page.