

THEA 1440: Play Analysis

Interpret | Analyze | Critique

Fall 2025

Asynchronous with Optional Meeting Times

Instructor Contact

Name: Zoe Settle

Office Hours: Virtual via Zoom by appointment only

Email: zoe.settle@unt.edu

Course Description

Principles and techniques governing the preparation of plays and other theatrical events for performance, design, direction and production. Contemporary systems of script analysis. Emphasis on theory and criticism of theatre arts.

Course Structure

The class is delivered fully online. On weeks where a reading is assigned, there will be the option to join classmates on zoom to read aloud together. There will be no synchronous meetings required in order to pass this class. The course will contain 5 units, each of which will ask you to read a classic play, watch a production, then read a modern derivative. Included in each unit will be material to help contextualize the works you are reading, the playwrights themselves, and their place in American Theater. There will be weekly discussion posts to expand your thoughts on the work you're reading, with a reflective analysis due at the end of each unit. There will be a final paper due on December 12th where you will synthesize what you've learned this semester.

Learning Outcomes

The ultimate objective of this course is to equip you with skills to critique and analyze theatrical works, while also beginning to curate your own personal taste. I have chosen a variety of plays from the theater canon, both old and new, and am hopeful this small sampling will encourage you to continue reading and exploring after the class has concluded.

Upon completion of this course, students should feel comfortable:

- Analyzing the social, historical, and cultural context of a play
- Exploring a play's themes and how they resonate with contemporary issues.
- Critiquing a performance's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the text.
- Articulating personal reactions to a play and its performance.
- Using critical thinking skills to evaluate the play's artistic merit and social impact.

Reading Materials:

- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller - [Online PDF](#)
- *John Proctor is the Villain* by Kimberly Bellflower - [Online on CliffNotes](#)
- *Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry - [Online PDF](#)
- *Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris - downloaded
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen - [Online PDF](#)
- *A Doll's House Part II* by Lucas Hnath - downloaded
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare - [Folger Online](#)
- *macbitches* by Sophie McIntosh - [Purchase Here](#)
- *Peter Pan; or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up* by J. M. Barrie - [Online PDF](#)
- *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* by H. Lewis, J. Sayer & H. Shields - [Purchase Here](#)

Productions:

The Crucible:

<https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/content/productions/the-crucible-digital-theatre?currentSeries=the-crucible-unit-of-study#about>

A Raisin in the Sun:

<https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/search?q=a+raisin+in+the+sun>

A Doll's House:

<https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/content/productions/a-dolls-house-digital-theatre>

Macbeth:

<https://edu-digitaltheatreplus-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/content/productions/macbeth-rsc#about>

Peter Pan:

https://search-alexanderstreet-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C4700082#/embed/object

How to Succeed in this Course

Even though his class is fully online, your weekly engagement is necessary to be successful. This class requires a lot of writing and interactions with your peers.

Communication: Communication is extremely important in an online class. If you are struggling, please email me as soon as you can so that I can help you. I am available to meet via zoom, and I want to work with you to be successful in this class.

I check my email at least twice a day and will make best efforts to reply within 24 hours on weekdays. Any communication sent after business hours on Friday may not receive a response until Monday.

Late assignments are only accepted in extremely rare circumstances. This includes issues with technology, so plan ahead. Always call ITS if you have technology issues.

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.

CLASS CONDUCT

The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

This is for everyone's safety and comfort.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

Sensitive Subject Matter: In this course sensitive subject matters may be discussed. Everyone is expected to treat these moments with the sensitivity and respect they deserve. Racist, misogynistic, homophobic, or any other form of hateful language/action is disruptive and will not be tolerated. 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. Anyone who finds it difficult to act respectfully toward their classmates and the subject matter may be asked to leave the class.

Student Academic Integrity: The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

GRADING

All written work will be submitted on specified due dates. Written work must be typed.

AI-generated work, in whole or in part, will receive a grade of 0.

Assignment	Points
Weekly Play Discussion	10 @ 25 points each
Unit Analysis	5 @ 50 points each
Final Analysis	100 points
Total	600 points

Final grade breakdown for points earned:

A = 540-600 points

B = 480 – 539 points

C = 420 - 479

points

D = 360 - 419 points

F = 359 and below

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.

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.

Course Schedule

Here is an outline for the scope of the course. This schedule is subject to minor changes.

Unit 1: The Crucible

Week of 8/18 - 9/7

Unit 2: Raisin in the Sun

Week of 9/8 - 9/28

Unit 3: A Doll's House

Week of 9/29 - 10/19

Unit 4: Macbeth

Week of 10/20 - 11/9

Unit 5: Peter Pan

Week of 11/10 - 12/7

Final Due 12/12