

THEA 250: Textual Analysis Fall 2009 Syllabus

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Katie Whitlock	Lecture Room:	PAC 210
Email:	klwhitlock@csuchico.edu Please use Vista for class email	Lecture Time:	MWF 12:00 – 12:50 PM
Office & Phone:	PAC 260 530-898-4056	Office Hours:	M 9 – 11 / T 9 – 12 Or by appointment
Teaching Asst.	Mariana Olvera		

Required Texts

Thomas, James. *Script Analysis for Actors, Directors, and Designers*. 4th Edition. Focal Press (2009) ISBN: 978-0-240-81049-2

Carr, Marina. *By the Bog of Cats*. Dramatists Play Service. (2002) ISBN: 978-0-8222-1856-2

Parks, Suzan-Lori. *Venus*. Dramatists Play Service. (1998) ISBN: 978-0-82221567-7

Pinter, Harold. *Betrayal*. Dramatists Play Service. (1980) ISBN: 978-0-8222-0109-0

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet* (Penguin Classics). Penguin Classics (2001) ISBN: 0140714545

Shepard, Sam. *A Lie of the Mind*. Dramatists Play Service. (1986) ISBN: 978-0-8222-0656-9

Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex* (Touchstone Edition). J. E. Thomas, Trans. Prestwick (2005) ISBN: 1580495931

Williams, Tennessee. *The Streetcar Named Desire*. Dramatists Play Service. (REV 1953) ISBN: 978-0-8222-1089-4

All of these texts are available in the bookstore as well as online at Amazon or at Dramatists (<http://www.dramatists.com/>).

Course Objectives

- Introduce the basic principles, techniques, and challenges of script analysis, where the text is examined from a production viewpoint rather than for literary merit
- Develop a methodology that enables students to dissect a play from the perspective of performer, director, and/or designer in preparation for the rehearsal process
- Enhance the ability to read and think critically about texts and performance, expressing that thinking articulately in oral and written exercises
- Provide students with a basis for further study in theatre and to provide insight into their own potential as artists.

Grading Breakdown

There will be a variety of written assignments and discussions that comprise the grading component of this course. Please see the breakdown below for how percentages will be assigned. In this course, you will be working to develop your skills as thinkers and writers. You will need to be prepared for class discussion and you need to have an opinion while being respectful of others and their ideas.



Assignment	Point Value
Plays test	30
In-Class Responses / Exercises Participation	50
Action Analysis Group Exercise	10
G.C. / B.S. Exercise	15
Structure Exercise	15
Character Exercise	15
Idea / TRM Group Exercise	15
Final Project	50
Total	200 pts

Plays Test (30 pts)

We will be using a variety of scripts over the course of the semester and this test will cover basic questions on the five plays: *Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *Betrayal*, *By the Bog of Cats*, and *Venus*. Please note the day of this exam on the syllabus.

In-Class Responses / Exercises / Participation (50 pts)

Over the course of the semester there will be some exercises and writings which are assigned in class as well as a need for active participation in the course. These points will be assigned to various exercises as the semester progresses and will include opportunities for extra credit as well.

Performances

You are required to see all three major productions this semester. We will be discussing each in detail and you will be expected to participate!

<i>Trailer Park</i>	Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 @ 7:30 pm; Oct. 3 & 4 @ 2:00 pm	Wismer Theatre
<i>As You Like It</i>	Oct. 28 – 31 @ 7:30 pm; Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 @ 2:00 pm	Adams Theatre
<i>Judas Iscariot</i>	Nov. 12 – 14 @ 7:30 pm; Nov. 14 & 15 @ 2:00 pm	Wismer Theatre

Exercises & Final Project (120 pts total)

The exercises and final project will draw from the main textbook and the various scripts we will be working with. Much of analysis is practical and as such you need to do these exercises to explore the tools we will be discussing. Each exercises/project will have a specific guideline posted. Please be sure to follow the formatting guidelines attached to each exercise – if you do not, the instructor reserves the right to give the exercise a failing grade.

Grading Scale

A	200-188 pts	B	173-166 pts	C	153-146 pts	D	127-120 pts
A-	187-180 pts	B-	165-160 pts	C-	145-140 pts	F	Below 120 pts
B+	179-174 pts	C+	159-154 pts	D+	139-128 pts		

Grades will be based on the percentage/point scale above and are assigned as follows:

- **A – Superior Work:** A level of achievement so outstanding that it is normally attained by relatively few students.
- **B – Very Good Work:** A high level of achievement clearly better than adequate competence in the subject matter / skill, but not as good as the unusual, superior achievement of students earning an “A.”
- **C – Adequate Work:** A level of achievement indicating adequate competence in the subject matter / skill. This level will usually be met by a majority of students in the class.
- **D – Minimally Acceptable Work:** A level of achievement which meets the minimum requirements of the course.
- **F – Unacceptable Work:** A level of achievement that fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course. Not passing.



Vista

Log on to your portal from the CSU Chico homepage and enter your Wildcat username and password. If you require assistance, contact Student Computing at 898-HELP (4357) or on their website, <http://www.csuchico.edu/stcp/>.

Academic Honesty and Academic Rigor

Please see the relevant statements concerning these topics as separate attachments posted in Vista.

Formatting Guidelines

All materials are DUE on the day assigned. Specific guidelines are posted with each assignment. You are responsible for all materials, announcements, and information given in lecture and recitation. Late work will **NOT** be accepted in any form. Any papers and/or tests submitted after the due date will receive a failing grade. The work is due as specified by the instructor and deadlines will not be extended unless the student has informed the instructor of extraordinary circumstances prior to the deadline.

If you are citing work, follow MLA guidelines. Also – as always – **proofread** your work. Please note – spell check and grammar check will not catch everything!!! The papers will be graded for content rather than spelling, punctuation, etc. However, if grammar and spelling interfere with my reading of the paper, you will receive a failing grade. It is recommended that students make and keep a copy of all assignments and papers submitted to the instructor.

Requesting an Incomplete

In accordance with the University Catalog, “an ‘I’ signifies that a portion of required coursework has not been completed and evaluated within the prescribed time. Incompletes will be assigned only in cases where instructors conclude that a clearly identifiable pattern of course requirements cannot be met for unforeseen reasons.”

A student must have a passing grade at the time they request an incomplete from the instructor, who at their discretion may or may not award an incomplete as the grade. If it is awarded, the student must complete all remaining coursework in the following semester. An incomplete is not given because a student is unable or unwilling to keep pace with the requirements of a course.

Attendance, Assignments, and Class Requirements

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ATTENDANCE POLICY

In accordance with the University Catalog, you are expected to attend classes regularly. You should discuss absences with your instructors, but you may report an absence of more than a week's duration to the Office of Advising and Orientation when it results from circumstances beyond your control, such as illness or accident. The office will then send notification of your absence and the reason for it to your instructors. Instructors can, if they choose, drop you from a course for non-attendance.

You are allowed the equivalent of one week of excused absences without penalty. The student is solely responsible for arranging any make-up arrangements with the instructor prior to the actual absence. After one week of equivalent absences, the student is allowed the equivalent of a second week of absences for emergencies, sickness, and extraordinary circumstances. The penalty for these absences, whether excused or unexcused, is at the discretion of the instructor of the course. Any absence beyond two weeks, regardless of the circumstances, is considered too excessive for successful completion of the course. Students that exceed the allowable absences will either be disenrolled or will receive a grade of "F," "NC" or "WU," at the discretion of the instructor. In extreme situations, with serious and compelling reasons, a student may arrange with the instructor to receive a grade of "I," but this dispensation by the instructor must be prearranged and must have a completed plan for completion of the course requirements within a reasonable time frame. Students should not assume that an Incomplete is automatic.



You are responsible for all materials, announcements, and information given in lecture and recitation. As class time is valuable, please note that coming late to class will impact your absences.
Every two late classes equal one absence.

Late work will **NOT** be accepted in any form. Any papers and/or tests submitted after the due date will receive a failing grade. The work is due as specified by the instructor and deadlines will not be extended unless the student has informed the instructor of extraordinary circumstances prior to the deadline.

Students with Disabilities

It is the student's responsibility to initiate the request for accommodations from Disability Support Services. Students are encouraged to consult community agencies for services outside the scope of Disability Support Services, including attendant care, mobility training, and rehabilitation services.

- If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. DSS is located at the University Center, behind Kendall Hall. The DSS phone number is 530-898-5959. Visit the DSS website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>. It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about the process and the deadlines and requirements for accommodations.
- Students are responsible for handling the necessary paperwork for adding or dropping this class. University guidelines for dropping classes are strictly adhered to.

Important Dates to Know

Please visit the following website to check on dates for add/drop as well as other important dates in the academic calendar. <http://www.csuchico.edu/vpaa/calendar/fs09.shtml>. I have also posted the printable version of the Fall 2009 Academic calendar in this course on Vista.

It is the student's responsibility to add or drop classes in a timely fashion.

Expected Student Behavior in the Classroom

- Guests of students will not be allowed to "observe" classes without prior approval of the instructor.
- Students are expected to turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices during class time.
- If students are using a laptop for taking notes, they are expected not to be browsing the internet or writing email during class.
- Students are expected to pay attention and participate in class meetings.
- Students may not read other materials (newspapers, magazines) during class.
- Students are to remain in class during the entire session with the exception of breaks. Students are not allowed to come and go during the class session.
- All class participants are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to other students and the instructor.
- All students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.
- Children of enrolled students are not allowed in the classroom.
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.
- The class follows the standards set in the **California State University, Student Conduct Procedures (EO 970)**; the **Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities (EM 96-38)**, and the **Student Grievance Procedures (EM 05-10)**—See the Student Judicial Affairs website <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/> or visit the Student Judicial Affairs Office in Kendall Hall 110. Students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code.

Student Escort Service

530.898.5372 or a blue light phone – Please be smart and safe as needed.



**THEA 250: Textual Analysis
Course Calendar / Fall 2009**

DATE	DAY	TOPIC	READINGS / DUE
Week 1			
8/24	M	Introduction & Syllabus	
8/26	W	Historical text analysis	Introduction
8/28	F	FURLOUGH DAY – NO CLASS	
Week 2			
8/31	M	Action analysis	Chapter 1
9/2	W	More discussion	<i>Hamlet</i>
9/4	F	FURLOUGH DAY – NO CLASS	
Week 3			
9/7	M	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	
9/9	W	Application Discussion	<i>Oedipus</i> / Action Analysis Groups DUE
9/11	F	Continue discussion of application	
Week 4			
9/14	M	Plays Test	<i>Streetcar</i> / <i>Bog</i> / <i>Lie</i> / <i>Betrayal</i> / <i>Venus</i>
9/16	W	Viewing	
9/18	F	Discussion of viewing	Response DUE
Week 5			
9/21	M	Given Circumstances	Chapter 2
9/23	W	Background Story	Chapter 3
9/25	F	Discussion	G.C. / B.S. Exercise DUE
Week 6			
9/28	M	External Action	Chapter 4
9/30	W	Internal Action	
10/2	F	Discussion	<i>Hamlet</i> / <i>Oedipus</i> Focus
<i>The Great American Trailer Park Musical</i> runs Sept. 30 – Oct 3 @ 7:30 pm; Oct. 3 & 4 @ 2:00 pm / Wismer Theatre			
Week 7			
10/5	M	Discussion of <i>Trailer Park</i>	
10/7	W	Progressions	Chapter 5
10/9	F	Structure	
Week 8			
10/12	M	Discussion	<i>Streetcar</i> Structure DUE
10/14	W	Discussion	<i>Betrayal</i> Structure DUE
10/16	F	Discussion	<i>Venus</i> Structure DUE
Week 9			
10/19	M	Character	Chapter 6
10/21	W	Discussion	<i>Lie</i> Character DUE
10/23	F	Discussion	<i>Bog</i> Character DUE



Week 10

10/26	M	Idea	Chapter 7
10/28	W	Discussion	<i>Hamlet & Oedipus</i> Focus
10/30	F	HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL – NO CLASS	

***As You Like It* runs Oct. 28 – 31 @ 7:30 PM; Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 @ 2:00 PM
Adams Theatre**

Week 11

11/2	M	SBCD – NO CLASS	
11/4	W	Discussion of <i>As You Like It</i>	
11/6	F	Viewing & Discussion	

Week 12

11/9	M	Dialogue	Chapter 8
11/11	W	NO CLASS – Veteran's Day	
11/13	F	Discussion	

***The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* runs Nov. 12 – 14 @ 7:30 pm;
Nov. 14 & 15 @ 2:00 pm / Wismer Theatre**

Week 13

11/16	M	Discussion of <i>Judas</i>	
11/18	W	Viewing	
11/20	F	Discussion of viewing	Response DUE

Week 14

11/23 – 11/27 NO CLASS – Fall Break!

Week 15

11/30	M	Tempo, Rhythm and Mood	Chapter 9
12/2	W	Discussion	<i>Hamlet</i> Idea / TRM DUE
12/4	F	Discussion	<i>Oedipus</i> Idea / TRM DUE

**CDT runs Dec. 4 & 5 @ 7:30 pm; Dec. 5 & 6 @ 2:00 pm
Ruth Rowland-Taylor Recital Hall**

Week 16

12/7	M	Style of the Play	Chapter 10
12/9	W	More style...	
12/11	F	Course wrap-up	

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 16 @ 12:00 – 1:50 PM

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to change assignments and due dates as might be necessitated by the class and the schedule.

Appropriate notification will be given in such instances for the student to make adjustments as needed.

