Texas Christian University  
Department of Theatre  
THEA 20103: Script Analysis

Instructor: Dr. Harry B. Parker  
Office: ELH 101  
Office Phone: (817) 257-7625  
E-mail: h.parker@tcu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment  
The best way to set up an appointment with me is via e-mail.

Textbooks: Backwards and Forwards, by David Ball (SIU Press)  
The Compact Bedford Introduction to Drama (2nd Edition), edited by Lee A. Jacobus  
(St. Martin’s Press)

TCU Mission Statement:  
To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the  
global community.

TCU Department of Theatre Mission Statement:  
To educate individuals to understand the theatre as an artistic and academic discipline,  
and as global communicators.

Course Purpose:  
This course is designed to teach students basic skills for understanding the structure and  
content of play scripts, for the express purpose of interpretation and conceptualization in  
threre productions by directors, designers, actors, and technicians. It is also designed to  
troduce students to several major plays in the history of dramatic literature.

Course Objectives and Student Outcomes:  
The objectives of the course are to teach basic skills for understanding structure and  
content of play scripts including:
   - Definition of dramatic action  
   - Discussion of dramatic genre  
   - Examination of major structural components: inciting incident, conflict,  
     complication, rising action, climax, denouement  
   - Discussion of character, setting, major themes, and minor themes  
   - Visualization of textual content  
   - Exposure to several major plays in history of dramatic literature
The student outcomes of the course will be to demonstrate on exams and written assignments an understanding of:
- Concepts and function of dramatic action, play structures, characters, and themes
- Process of transforming written text into visual conceptualizations for production
- Mastery of the content and structure of the assigned major plays

**Topical Outline of the Course**

Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction and *Hamlet*
- Introduction to the course
- Reading and detailed discussion of *Hamlet*
- Definition of major dramatic action in *Hamlet*

Week 3, 4, 5: *Backwards and Forwards*
- Reading and detailed discussion of *Backwards and Forwards*
- Discussion of dramatic action, forwards, character, theme

Week 6:
- Reading and discussion of *Oedipus the King, Antigone*

Week 7:
- Reading and discussion of *Lysistrata, Everyman*

Week 8:
- Reading and discussion of *The Misanthrope, A Doll’s House*

Week 9:
- Reading and discussion of *Miss Julie, The Cherry Orchard*

Week 10:
- Reading and discussion of *Major Barbara, Desire Under the Elms*

Week 11:
- Reading and discussion of *The Glass Menagerie, Death of a Salesman*

Week 12:
- Reading and discussion of *Endgame, A Raisin in the Sun*

Week 13:
- Reading and discussion of *’night, Mother, Fences*

**Assignments**
- Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions
- Regular reading assignments from the course textbook
- Four exams, including one scheduled during the final exams period
- Four short essays (app. 1500 words), about four of the different plays read during the semester
- Occasional quizzes

**Attendance**
Three absences are allowed in this class, without penalty. Students who miss four or more class meetings will have their final course grade lowered by one letter grade. The instructor reserves the right to incur additional grading penalties if excessive absences (more than five) occur.

**Grading:**
Final course grades will be determined on a 900 point system:
- First Exam: 100 points
- Second Exam: 100 points
- Third Exam: 100 points
- Fourth Exam: 100 points
- First Paper: 100 points
- Second Paper: 100 points
- Third Paper: 100 points
- Fourth Paper: 100 points
- Five Quizzes (10 points each): 50 points
- Class Discussion: 50 points

Final course grades will be determined on a 10% scale, with – in general – grades between 90-100% earning an A; between 80-89% earning a B; between 70-79% earning a C; between 60-69% earning a D; and 59% and lower earning an F.

Be aware that high grades should not be assumed, but must be earned. “A” grades signify excellent work. “B” grades signify good work. “C” grades signify average work. “D” grades signify weak work. “F” grades signify unsatisfactory work.

**Statement on Disability Services at TCU:**
Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. If you require accommodations for a disability, please contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services, located in Sadler Hall 11. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at 817-257-7486.

Adequate time must be allowed to arrange accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the academic term for which they are seeking accommodations. *Each eligible student is responsible for presenting relevant, verifiable, professional documentation and/or assessment reports to the Coordinator.* Guidelines for documentation may be found at [http://www.acs.tcu.edu/DISABILITY.HTM](http://www.acs.tcu.edu/DISABILITY.HTM).
Students with emergency medical information or needing special arrangements in case a building must be evacuated should discuss this information with their instructor/professor as soon as possible.

**Academic Misconduct (Sec. 3.4 from the Student Handbook):**

Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the offices of Academic Deans and the Office of Campus Life. Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files and listings; Using, during any academic exercise, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test; Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or laboratory without permission; Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release; Substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself;

- **Plagiarism:** The appropriation, theft, purchase or obtaining by any means another’s work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one’s own offered for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another’s work without giving credit therefore.

- **Collusion:** The unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit.

**Email Notification:**

Only the official TCU student email address will be used for all course notification from the instructor to students. It is your responsibility to check your TCU email on a regular basis.

**TCU Campus Resources for Students:**

Many resources exist on the TCU campus that may be helpful to students: Mary Couts Burnett Library (257-7117); Center for Academic Services (257-7486, Sadler Hall 11); the William L. Adams Center (257-7221, Rickel Building 244); Student Development Services (257-7855, Student Center 220); and University Ministries (257-7830, Student Center 111).

**Subject to Change**

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.