

THTR 212-001 From Page to Stage
M/W 1-2:20p
Faculty Memorial Hall, Rm 313

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Course Description

From Page to Stage is an introduction to understanding the relationship between the literary nature of plays and how they are produced for the stage. Coursework will include reading, analyzing, and discussion of plays in class, viewing plays outside of class, and finally creating plays within the class structure.

Course Objective

The objective of the course is to foster knowledge of a play's elements and structure. The approach to this is hands-on with the first half of the course reading and analyzing and the second half of the course walking through the creative process.

Course Outcome

By the end of this course students should

- demonstrate knowledge of analyzing and interpreting scripts,
- increase their general knowledge about the theatrical world,
- develop practical skills presenting and designing theatre-related work,
- gain the ability and confidence to share their works with an audience,
- increase their abilities to work in a collaborative environment,
- and learn how to provide focused and useful critical feedback to classmates.

Class Policies

Attendance: Attendance is important for this course as most of the coursework will be discussions happening in class. Lateness and unexcused absences will be reflected in your grade. To get absences excused, a note is needed from the Dean of Students. If there are mitigating circumstances, contact me before the class you will miss. If you are running late, please text me to let me know. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend class in-person. Email me 2 hours before class for a zoom link, and you can attend remotely. You cannot attend remotely for any reason other than being sick. Note: You are required to see *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* November 8th-12th.

Participation: For this class you may be asked to read out loud in class and do some acting. While I do not expect it to be award-winning caliber, I do expect you to make an effort. Please bring a device to class that allows you to easily access the plays we are discussing.

Consent and Respect: I actively cultivate a room that is welcome for everyone and is grounded in consent. Consent may be given and revoked at any time. Disrespect towards your peers will not be tolerated. If a misstep or action has occurred that makes you feel unsafe or disrespected, please let me know and I will address it.

Anti-Racism: I acknowledge that racism is systemically a part of our culture and am doing my best to dismantle these practices where I find them. We will be addressing issues of race within this course. I welcome any and all feedback about ways I can be more effective in this process.

Land Acknowledgment: We acknowledge that NJIT and Rutgers University are located on stolen land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, specifically the Lenni-Lenape. While many Lenni-Lenape people were forcibly removed from their homelands, they are still an active part of New Jersey culture and society. To learn more about the Lenni-Lenape people, visit nanticoke-lenape.info

Questions/Concerns: If you have a question or concern you are not comfortable communicating to me directly, please use the “Anonymous Question Form” in Canvas and I will respond to question or concern at the next class for everyone.

Missing or Late Assignments: Missing or late assignments will not be accepted without communication. If you have mitigating circumstances that prevented you from completing an assignment, please reach out to me so we can discuss options. You can make up a missed quiz if you have a note from the Dean of Students.

Honor Code: “Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>. Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu” Please note that using AI and ChatGPT to write papers is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.

Texts

Introduction to Play Analysis (2nd Edition) by Cal Pritner and Scott Walters

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams (on Canvas)

A Nice Indian Boy by Madhuri Shekar (on Canvas)

The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe (on Canvas)

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play by Anne Washburn (on Canvas)

Additional Plays Available on Canvas

Additional Costs

\$15 - Tickets for NJIT Production of *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* 11/8-11/12

Assignments

Quizzes: There will be an in-class quiz to assess your familiarity with each play covered in the course.

Presentations: There will be group presentations on the plays we cover in the class. These presentations should be 10-15 minutes long and should consist of a full play analysis.

Play Analysis Paper: Choose a play from a pre-selected group of plays and write a 4-6 page paper, fully analyzing the play.

Final Project: The final project of the class will be a group project of creating and performing a 3-5 page play. Each group member will have different roles including playwright, actors, director, and designer. This will be performed the final day of class. It will be graded both as a group and individually.

Extra Credit: Work a minimum of 5 hrs on *Mr. Burns* in some capacity. You can help with sets, costumes, ushering (2 performances), etc. This will earn you an additional 3% for your grade. You cannot work 10 hrs and get 6%, but you are welcome to work more hours if you wish.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance/Participation 30%

Quizzes - 15%

Play Analysis Paper - 15%

Presentation - 15%

Final Project - 25%

Grade Breakdown

A : 90%<

B+ : 88% - 89%

B: 80% - 88%

C+: 78% - 79%

C: 70% - 78%

D: 60% - 70%

F: > 60%

Schedule

Syllabus subject to change.

9/6: Intro to class, Presentation Sign-Up

9/11: Quiz #1, The First Read, **Due: Chpt. 1 and *The Glass Menagerie***

9/13: Conflict **Due: Chpt. 2**

9/18: Given Circumstances and Theatrical Contract **Due: Chpt. 3 and 4**

9/20: Characters **Due: Chpt. 5**

9/25: Conflict Analysis Applied to a Scene and Supplemental Research **Due: Chpt. 6 and 7**

9/27: Synthesis **Due: Chpt. 8**

10/2: Quiz #2, Discussion of Play, **Due: *A Nice Indian Boy***

10/4: **Group 1 Presentation**, Discussion of Play, cont.

10/9: Introduction to Playwriting

10/11: Introduction to Playwriting, **Rough Draft of Play Analysis Paper Due**

10/16: Quiz #3, Discussion of Play, **Due: *The Wolves***

10/18: **Group 2 Presentation**, Peer Review of Play Analysis Paper

10/23: Discussion of Play, cont.

10/25: Introduction to Acting, **Due: Play Analysis Paper**

10/30: Introduction to Acting

11/1: Quiz #4, Discussion of Play **Due: *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play***

11/6: Group 3 Presentation, Discussion of Play, cont.

11/8: Short Plays and Directing

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play, Nov 8th-12th, Black Box Theater at 110 Warren, \$15

11/13: Mr Burns Post-Mortem, **Pick Groups/Roles for Final Project**

11/15: Group Work: Brainstorm Ideas

11/20: Group Work: First Reading, **Due: First Draft of Script**

11/22: NO CLASS

11/27: Group Work: Second Reading, **Due: Second Draft of Script**

11/29: Group Work: Rehearsal

12/4: Group Work: Rehearsal **Due: First Draft of Poster**

12/6: Group Work: Rehearsal

12/11: Dress Rehearsal, Meet at Theatre, **Due: Final Poster**

12/13: Final Performance, Due: Final Script

12/19: (NO CLASS) - Final Paper and Final Project Peer Review Due