

THTR/ENGL 261

Script Analysis

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

THTR/ENGL 261 – Script Analysis: students read, interpret and interact with plays from a range of periods and styles. Students analyze texts primarily through a theatrical perspective and use the text to develop production choices. This course includes a research component.

Pre-requisites: THTR 101 and a C or better in ENGL 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. utilize the script as the fundamental basis to analyze performances;
2. apply critical and analytical skills to reading a play;
3. identify an individual style or tone in various playwrights;
4. evaluate various production choices within a play, ranging from set design, acting, light design and direction;
5. perform the role of dramaturg as it applies to a text;
6. explore the process of new play development;
7. translate concepts about dramatic literature into a discussion of a specific theatrical production;
8. critique a specific performance, using both the primary text and secondary sources to support the analysis;
9. produce a scholarly research paper based on one or more plays from class; and
10. lead a critical discussion about a play.

Major Topics

- I. Plot Development
 - a. Action and conflict
 - b. Stasis and inciting incident
 - c. Rising action
 - d. Cause and effect
- II. Character Development
 - a. Identifying character through dialogue and action
 - b. An actor's approach to character analysis
 - c. Costume design and character
- III. Theme

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- a. Theatricality
- b. Image and set design
- c. Director's concept
- IV. Applied Critical Analysis to Plays
 - a. Feminist
 - b. Queer
 - c. Post-Colonial
 - d. Marxist
 - e. Critical Race Theory
 - f. Psychoanalytic and Symbolic
 - g. Reader Response
- V. Live Performance Analysis
 - a. Text as preparation
 - b. Production interpretation and performance choices
- VI. Writing about Drama
 - a. Dramatic research component
 - b. Primary and secondary sources
 - c. Theatre criticism

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Weekly in-class responses to the texts (can be written, oral, or a combination of both)
- Two performance analysis papers
- Three brief analysis papers which apply critical theory and/or theatrical production elements to a script
- A final research paper

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Date Revised: 11/17/2020