

Fall 2015

FTA 6060

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University of New Orleans

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CONCEPT, CONFLICT AND CHARACTER - FTCA 6060

INSTRUCTOR: HENRY GRIFFIN

OFFICE HOURS: MON 4-6; TUE 1-3; FRI 1-3

ROOM: PAC 316

TIME: TUE 3:30-6:15 PM

TEXTS

Aristotle's Poetics

The Art of Dramatic Writing by Lajos Egri

The Anatomy of Story by John Truby

Three Uses of the Knife by David Mamet

Doubt (screenplay), by John Patrick Shanley

Amadeus (screenplay), by Peter Shaffer

The Verdict, by David Mamet

Rear Window, by John Michael Hayes

And additional readings & screenings over the course of the term

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the fundamentals of script analysis as they relate to the director's formulation of concept, identification of conflict and understanding of character behavior. Focusing on selected film and play scripts, lectures and seminars will emphasize the application of similar methodologies employed by directors and actors in both film and theatre.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is intended to explore the commonality in the analytical process between practitioners in film and theatre. It is intended to serve as a colloquium foundation for students in both disciplines to continue to work together utilizing shared artistic terminology and techniques.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This analytical practicum is intended to provide you with opportunities to:

- 1 Develop an understanding of concept, conflict, and character in theatre and film scripts as they apply to directing in either medium.
- 2 Become familiar with some of the fundamental texts in script analysis.
- 3 Explore the commonality in the analytical process between practitioners in film and theatre.
- 4 Identify and explore shared principles utilized in the acting and directing process for stage and screen.

GRADING

Class Participation. 15%

Premise assignment 5%

Premise responses 5%

Bone Structure assignment 10%

Obituary Assignment 10%

Script Analysis 30%

Final Exam 25%

E-MAIL POLICIES

Students are expected to keep up with updates relating to the course via e-mails from the professor, who can be reached at hgriffin@uno.edu.

DEADLINES

Deadlines are important. Any ten-point assignment that is not submitted on the due date is subject to a five-point penalty. Any five-point assignment that is not submitted on the due date is subject to a 2.5-point penalty. An absence does not double as an extension. Do not ask for extensions.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. One absence is allowed, no questions asked. The second and following absences will each reduce the student's grade by five points, one half a letter grade.

TARDINESS

A five-minute grace period is allowed before a late student is marked tardy. The first two tardys are free. The third and following will each reduce the student's grade by five points, one half a letter grade. After one hour, a tardy student is considered absent.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information.

CONDUCT

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. Phoneplay of any kind is prohibited, including texting and internet use. Internet use on laptops is prohibited. Failure to abide these rules may result in loss of points in participation grade. Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Any actions that distract the class from the work at hand will not be allowed. Civility and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed. Courteous behavior and responses are expected.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

GRADING SCALE

A 91-100

B 81-90

C 71-80

D 61-70

F 0-60

CALENDAR – TOPICS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

8/25 First Class; HW Write Premise exercise, read Doubt
9/1 Premise exercise; HW read Aristotle's Poetics
9/8 Aristotle's Poetics; HW read Truby 1-3
9/15 Structure; HW read Egri I
9/22 Genre; HW read Rear Window
9/29 Subplot; HW read Mamet
10/6 Three Uses of the Knife; HW read Truby 4, Egri II
10/13 Bone Structure HW Bone Structure exercise
10/20 Protagonist; HW read Amadeus; Obituary exercise
10/27 Character Change/Moral Argument HW read The Verdict
11/3 Conflict
11/10 Causality
11/17 Setting
11/24 Scene Analysis
12/1 Last Class SCRIPT ANALYSIS DUE

FINAL EXAM – Tuesday, 12/8, 5:30-7:30

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee 08/18/2015

Semester Classes Begin 08/19/2015

Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,
or withdraw with 100% refund 08/25/2015

Last day to apply for December commencement 09/25/2015

Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015

Mid-semester examinations 10/05-10/09/2015

Final examinations 12/07-12/11/2015

Commencement 12/18/2015

**Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here:
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>*

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day 09/07/2015

Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015

Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook:

<http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification:

<http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>