



**DRAM 2355-141CL**

**Script Analysis**

**Fall 2021**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m.-4:20 p.m.**

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Ashley Love

Email: [alove2@com.edu](mailto:alove2@com.edu)

Phone: TBD

**Student hours and location:**

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in F116 or virtual format, or by appointment. To make an appointment with me, please visit

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/AshleyLove@com0.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

**Required Textbook:** There is no required textbook for this course.

**Course Description:** An exploration of script analysis methodology and hands-on practice. Attendance at representative plays is required.

**Course requirements (including description of any special projects or assignments):**

Attendance/Participation	20%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Production Reflections	20%	
Exercises	20%	
Midterm Project	20%	
Final Creative Project	20%	

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:** Grades will be determined based on qualitative (projects) and quantitative (papers and exams) formulas. 20% of your grade will be based on a final creative project combining all script analysis concepts explored in class. 20% of your grade will be based on two written reflections about script analysis and live productions. 40% of your grade will be determined by completion of individual projects and class exercises which demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts explored in the course. 20% of your grade will be based on your quality of participation and attendance.

**Play Review Assignment Detail:**

You must see a performance of the COM Theatre productions of *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney and *A Divine Kerfuffle* by H. Russ Brown. You may see any preview or regular performance free of

charge and you are welcome to bring a guest. There is no need to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list with the Box Office. To get credit for attending you MUST say you are in Ashley Love's Theatre Class and sign next to your name.

*Sylvia*: Sept 9<sup>th</sup>-September 26<sup>th</sup> – review due Oct 5 at midnight

*A Divine Kerfuffle*: Nov 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov 21<sup>st</sup>– review due Dec 2 at midnight

All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

The best reflections for this purpose are approximately three (3) typewritten, double-space pages. This is not a test of whether you have seen the production -- that is a given. It should be a discussion of what you experienced and how it is DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO SCRIPT ANALYSIS. The following is an OUTLINE of topics which should be addressed in your production reflection. Your point of view and critical thinking skills will be the focus of your grade. I do not care what your opinions are; I care if you are clearly communicating your opinions with evidence that supports your claims (just like with a research paper).

1. Introductory Paragraph, including play and title
2. Dramatic Values a. Story/Plot (keep this part short) b. Theme/Idea
3. Personal reaction (A brief paragraph stating honestly what you think about the play)
4. "Seed" Analysis of the play.
5. Connection of production values, acting, and directing choices to your brief action-analysis.
6. Conclusion

*I know you have most likely not read the play(s) you will watch. This is an exercise to challenge your ability to use the quick action-analysis methods in real time and to reflect how a particular production reinforced or deviated from your critical examination of the plot.*

### **Midterm Project Assignment Detail:**

The purpose of this project is that students will execute a complete, formal script analysis for a ten-minute play chosen by the instructor that includes the elements discussed thus far in the course. The formatting of this paper is up to you—whatever makes the most sense and is easy to follow. Examples will be discussed in class. The formal script analysis must include (at least):

1. Playwright background
2. Seed/Event of the play
3. Given Circumstances
4. Background story information
5. External/Internal action list
6. Progressions in the text (at least 3)
7. Character
8. Images (minimum of ten) directly linked this list.

*You may include additional concepts.*

### **Final Creative Project Assignment Detail:**

The purpose of this project is that students will try their hand at applying formalist script analysis to theatrical creative activity. Production roles might include, but are not limited to: dramaturge, set designer, actor, director, costume designer, sound designer, etc. Students will complete a formal script analysis for their assigned play or musical. The student will write a one-two page

concept statement for their creative approach to their selected production role that is clearly informed by the formal script analysis. Additional information concerning this project requirements will be provided on a handout later in the semester.

### **Content Disclosure**

Courses within COM Theatre deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the course is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the course's practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course or speak with the instructor immediately.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Quizzes and video assignments automatically lose half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Make-up assignments are not permitted outside of emergency situations. Students may earn extra credit for ushering productions and fulfilling all required ushering policies and responsibilities. For every *two* usher shifts, I will replace your lowest quiz/video assignment/performance grade with an A, with a maximum of 6 shifts possible. If COVID impacts your ability to usher, please see the instructor for an alternative assignment prior to Nov. 1st. This extra credit may not overlap with theatre major responsibilities or obligations.

**Attendance Policy:** Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed **two (2)** absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by  $\frac{1}{2}$  a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to follow these policies, you need to speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID, communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Analyze dramatic action, character, setting, genre, and themes in selected play scripts.	Critical Thinking, Social Responsibility, and Communication	Production Reflections, discussions, and experiential project-based assignments
2. Identify major structural components of a play script.	Critical Thinking and Communication	Production Reflections and experiential project-based assignments
3. Articulate a broad contextual understanding of dramatic literature.	Communication, Teamwork, and Critical Thinking	Discussions and experiential project-based assignments
4. Develop a process for interpretation of play scripts.	Communication, Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility	Production Reflections and experiential project-based assignments

### **Civility in the Classroom**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Higher Education is challenging, and new to many of you. We are also in an unprecedented time, and many of you are facing difficult circumstances. We will discuss subjective works of art and the contexts in which they are created. Differences of opinion are welcomed and encouraged, but respect towards everyone in the classroom at all times is the expectation.

In the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting. In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department head who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class. If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Office of Student Conduct.

### **A Word about BOUNDARIES:**

At COM Theatre we strive to champion a professional atmosphere of non-judgmental inclusion, open communication, and enthusiastic consent so that all involved can feel free to be a pro-active participant in their own artistic growth. It is crucial that you gain an ever-evolving awareness of your own personal boundaries, so that you may teach those boundaries to us – in order to assure the personal comfort and safety of yourself, your partners and the ensemble. Please feel free to inform instructors of any physical or emotional limitations that may hinder your success in class so that they may be appropriately adapted.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact H. Russ Brown, Director of Theatre, at 409-933-8544 or [hrussbrown@com.edu](mailto:hrussbrown@com.edu).

## **Children in the Classroom**

I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. While I maintain the same high expectations for all students in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem-solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom.

### **Course Outline:**

*This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and will be given the appropriate time and accommodations in the event of those changes.*

Week 1-Why Analyze?

Reflection assessment due in class Thursday

Week 2-Event/Seed

Event/Seed exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 3-Given Circumstances

Given Circumstances exercise due Thursday by midnight on BB

Week 4-Background Story

Background Story exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 5-External and Internal Action

Action exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 6-Progressions and structure

Progressions and structure exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 7-Character

Character exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 8-Idea and Images

Idea exercise due on BB by midnight Tuesday

Midterm evaluation due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 9-Tempo, Rhythm, and Mood

Midterm Project due on BB by midnight Tuesday

Tempo, Rhythm, and Mood exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 10-Discuss final project and Discuss Backwards and Forwards (triggers and heaps)

Week 11-Backwards and Forwards (triggers and heaps)

Final Project Selection due on BB by midnight Tuesday

Week 12-Backwards and Forwards

Trigger and Heap exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 13- Backwards and Forwards with Action Analysis, and Non-formalist approaches

Mind Mapping exercise due on BB by midnight Thursday

Week 14-Non-formalist approaches and Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15- Non-formalist approaches and analyzing the Musical

Week 16-Course wrap-up and final exam

Thursday, Dec 9-Final project due on Blackboard by midnight Thursday

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <[https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 5-week summer session is July 6. The last date to withdraw from the 10-week summer session is August 2. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-week summer session is August 6.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program

you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with [Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order](#), face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.