

PLAY ANALYSIS

Winter 2020
Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:15
Manitoba Hall, 4M41

Professor: Jessica Riley
Office: Asper 3T09
Phone: 204-786-9285
E-Mail: j.riley@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours: T/Th 11:30-12:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The fundamental challenge any play or theatre text presents to performers, directors, designers and stage managers is how to read it in a way that is useful for a staged production. Play analysis is part of an artistic process; it calls for intuitive responses, contemplation, and analytical skills. Play analysis is only the first step in preparation for a production of a play. Subsequent steps depend on the job a particular artist in the production team needs to fulfill, as a performer, a director, a designer, etc. This course is designed to introduce production-oriented approaches to reading plays. Emphasis will be placed on identifying how a play *works*. Students will apply techniques for understanding the unique dramaturgical requirements of a range of plays from different periods and genres, learning to engage closely with the demands and interpretive opportunities presented by each script.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Please note that it is essential to purchase the following texts in the **specific editions** listed here. They are all available in the University of Winnipeg bookstore.

A Brimful of Asha by Ravi and Asha Jain. Photocopy available at bookstore.

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams. New Directions Publishing 1999

The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays by Oscar Wilde. Oxford University Press 2018

The Wolves by Sarah Delappe. The Overlook Press 2018

Additional required reading will be accessible online through Nexus and Ares

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays by David Ball. Southern Illinois University Press 2017

SCHEDULE (*subject to change*)

January 7 – 9	<i>Introduction and Foundational Concepts</i>
January 14 – January 28	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (Test: January 14)
January 30 – Feb 13	<i>Brimful of Asha</i> (Test: January 30)
February 16 – February 22	Reading Week. No classes.
February 25 – March 10	<i>The Wolves</i> (Test: February 25)
March 12 – April 2	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (Test: March 12)

Note: March 13 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty

GRADING

Participation.....	15%
Tests (15% x4)	60%
Final Assignment (due Thursday April 2 at 10am)	25%

TOTAL.....	100%

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%. Unexcused late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per calendar day. With the exception of in-class writing, all submitted work must be typed and carefully edited for spelling and grammar.

Tests will take place on **the first day of discussion of each play**. Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge of the plays’ contents and to apply specific approaches to play analysis introduced in class. To ensure preparedness for these tests, check Nexus regularly for any changes to the reading schedule.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation Grades will be determined on the basis of brief writing exercises and other records of in-class activities to be submitted periodically over the term. In addition, the following criteria will be considered in determining participation grades:

Preparation: Was the student prepared for class? Was the student on time, having completed assignments/readings?

Quality of contributions to discussion:

Were the student’s comments or questions relevant? Did they promote discussion?
Did the student respect others, listen well, and respond constructively?

Some negative points: Excessive or irrelevant digressions; verbal or non-verbal hostility, indifference, boredom, ridicule; impatience with opposing views; texting, engaging with social media, or other distractions, such as disruptive late arrivals or early departures.

Attendance: Please be aware that even if your participation is very good when you are present, missing many classes will limit your opportunities to participate and thus negatively affect your participation grade. Keep your absences to a minimum.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student’s disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other **scented products (such as lotion)** can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film presents a series of six lectures which will be held on **Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15**. Winter term dates are as follows:

FRIDAY, January 24th (note this is Friday rather than Wed): Kayla Gordon: Producing Independent Theatre
Wednesday, February 12th Sharon Bajer: Navigating Intimacy in theatre and film for actors, directors and Stage Managers

Wednesday, March 4th Kelly Thornton and Audrey Dwyer: Meet the new Artistic Team at RMTC

This series features speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM 3110 Screen Acting, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, THFM-3801 Production II, and THFM 3920 Musical Theatre**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams, Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and **24/7** (an event in which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours!).

Please join TAFSA to find out more at their meetings, every second Monday from 12:30-13:20 pm, Room 0T10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

All studios and labs are locked outside of building hours. Evening and weekend access can be added to your student card by visiting Melinda in the Department office, 3T03.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

- This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
- Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.
- Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.
- Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.
- It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

- Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).
- Detailed information regarding these policies can be found at the following:
 - Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
 - Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- *Misuse of Filesharing Sites*. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
- *Avoiding Copyright Violation*. Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
- Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.
- All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.
- Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES (all courses)

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 12, 2019 for Fall courses which begin September 2019 and end December 2019
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 14, 2020, for Fall/Winter courses which begin September 2019 and end April 2020
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 13, 2020, for Winter courses which begin January 2020 and end April 2020

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT

Theatre & Film are communal art forms in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals, meetings or shoots both within and outside of class times; and, in short, exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.