

Sample Syllabus

Prepared by Dek Ingraham

Is this for a particular institution? If so, what type of institution?

This is designed for a private liberal arts university undergraduate program in Pittsburgh, PA with a total enrollment of around 2,000 students.

How do you see this course relating to the overall curriculum?

This is the equivalent of an Intro to Theatre course and is paired with History of Drama as cornerstone classes. These two classes together are the foundation of the department and are required of all majors and minors. These classes also serve as general education requirements for the university in the area of art.

THT149 Intro to Theatre

Instructor: Dek Ingraham, M.F.A (he/him/his)
(Call me Dek: pronounced just like “deck” of cards)
Email: **Cell Phone:**

Office Hours: TBD DAYS at TBD TIME(S)

Office Location: TBD, Room TBD

Feel free to drop in during office hours in person or via Zoom. Zoom ID: TBD

Class Location: TBD

Class Time: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to conceptualization and creation of theatrical productions. Theory and analysis of structure, elements, and styles of drama from the written script are coupled with practical techniques to realize a unified vision of theatre on stage. Concepts integral to directing, dramaturgy, design, character development, and playwriting will be explored.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic skills in dramatic analysis.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the contributions and roles of actors, playwrights, dramaturgs, directors, designers, and others in the creation of theatre.
3. Critically evaluate the success of a theatrical production through a variety of perspectives.
4. Understand through experience the collaborative nature of making theatre.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Element Analysis of a Script (200 Points).** You will use the criteria outlined in the textbook to analyze your script for action and plot, form and style, and one other aspect of your choice. **Due by 11:59pm September 15 on Moodle.** This assignment is flexible in the final product. You can do this as an essay, videotaped presentation, or any other mode that you feel will best communicate this information. **Supports Learning Outcome 1**
2. **Perspective Analysis of a Script (200 Points).** You will take on the role of director, designer, or actor. Using this perspective, you will analyze your script and put together a presentation to communicate your ideas for how this script may be actualized on stage. You will then present this to the class. **Due on the day of your presentation on Moodle.** This assignment is flexible in the final product. You can do this as a live PowerPoint presentation, written essay that you read to the class, videotaped presentation, or any other mode that you feel will best communicate this information. **Supports Learning Outcome 2**

3. **Attend FALL PRODUCTION and create a critical response (200 Points).** You will take on the role of critic to write a response to the department's fall production. **Due by 11:59pm November 29.** This assignment can be either written or filmed. This should be 350 – 500 words written or 5 – 7 minutes filmed. **Supports Learning Outcome 3**

4. **Final Project (350 Points).** You will work as a production team with your fellow students to create a cohesive production design and concept for a one-act play. You will present this to the class as if they were your actors and production team at a first read-through of the script. This will be presented live to the class. Be prepared to answer questions from your cast and crew! **Due on Moodle the day of your group presentation.** Peer evaluation of the contribution of each partner will be used as part of the grading of the project. **Supports Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 4.**

5. **Participation (100 points).** Each of the ungraded class assignments in the syllabus is worth 15 points just for doing them on time (90 points)! There will also be surprise quizzes on the reading that will be worth an additional 10 points. You can retake these quizzes as many times as you like on Moodle.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Element Analysis of a Script	200 points
Perspective Analysis of a Script	200 points
Critical Response to Fall Production	150 points
Final Project	350 points
Participation	100 points
Total:	1000 points

REQUIRED TEXTS

- *The Essential Theatre*, 11th Edition
Oscar G. Brockett, Robert J. Ball, John Fleming, Andrew Carlson
Paperback: ISBN-10: 1133310699 ISBN-13: 9781133310693
eBook: ISBN-10: 1305995759 ISBN-13: 9781305995758
This book will be on reserve at the library for in-library use only.

- You will need to read FALL PRODUCTION SCRIPT HERE. Copies of this will be available on reserve at the library. You do not need to purchase this.

- You will need access to a play script of your choosing. We will discuss this in greater detail when we talk about the project. This can be a script that you already own or one that you borrow from the library. You do not need to purchase this.

- Other fair-use and public domain readings will be provided through Moodle.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

On the first day of class, we will build community agreements together to guide our interactions. We will explore expectations that I have for you as well as your expectations of me to build accountability to each other as a community. Through discussion and exercises, we will build a set of community agreements. We will additionally work together in our first class to create a policy for the acceptance of late work and standards for attendance. I will post our agreements on Moodle.

SAMPLE University Students pledge to maintain the Honor Code, which states in part: "Honor is that principle by which we at SAMPLE form our code of living, working, and studying together. The standards of honor at Chatham require that all students act with intellectual independence, personal integrity, honesty in all relationships, and consideration for the rights and well being of others."

Information about the Honor Code is available in the Student Handbook.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Plagiarism is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgement, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker.

Disability Statement

SAMPLE University is committed to providing an environment that ensures that no individual is discriminated against on the basis of her/his disability. Students with disabilities, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and who need special academic accommodations, should notify the assistant dean of the SAMPLE Center as soon as possible. The SAMPLE Center will work with students and the course instructor to coordinate and monitor the provision of reasonable academic accommodations.

Non-Registered Students Policy (revised Fall 2006)

In accordance with University policy, only officially registered students may attend this class and all other classes offered by the University after the add/drop period. Please confer with your academic advisor if you need assistance with the registration process or you need additional information.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tue Aug 23 2022 (Week 1)

Welcome and introduction. Community-created agreements.

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 1: The Nature of Theatre

Thu Aug 25 2022

Discussion Brockett Chapter 1: The Nature of Theatre

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 3: The Play

Tue Aug 30 2022 (Week 2)

Discussion Brockett Chapter 3: The Play

Dramatic Action and Plot

Assignment: Choose your script DUE September 6

Thu Sep 01 2022

Discussion Brockett Chapter 3: The Play

Character and Characterization, Practices and Styles

Tue Sep 06 2022 (Week 3)

Discussion Brockett Chapter 3: The Play

Form and Style

DUE: Project Script Selection

Reading for Next Class: One-act play provided on Moodle

Thu Sep 08 2022

Breakout Groups: Analyze one-act play

Assignment: Analyze your chosen play script DUE September 15

Tue Sep 13 2022 (Week 4)

Breakout Groups: share and compare your play analysis work so far for feedback – time to work in class on the project

Thu Sep 15 2022

Guest Lecture Panel: Meet the department!

Introduction of the faculty Artistic Director, Managing Director, Technical Director, and other available professors to tell you about their work and function, followed by Q&A.

DUE: Analysis of chosen script

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 12: Theatrical Space and Production Design

Assignment: Choose the perspective through which you would like to read your script (Ranked choice question available on Moodle). DUE September 20

Tue Sep 20 2022 (Week 5)

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 12: Theatrical Space and Production Design

Tour of the Theater

Group Activity: Label That Space!

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 13: Playwrighting and Dramaturgy

Additional Reading: Brockett Chapter that corresponds to your analysis perspective

Assignment: Check Moodle for Perspective Analysis Assignment and presentation schedule.

DUE on the day of your presentation

Thu Sep 22 2022

Class Discussion: Brockett Chapter 13: Playwrighting and Dramaturgy

Examples of ways to present your analysis

Assignment: Outline your initial presentation idea **DUE in class September 27**

Tue Sep 27 2022 (Week 6)

Breakout groups: share and compare your play analysis work so far for feedback – time to work in class on the project

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 14: Directing and Producing

Thu Sep 29 2022

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 14: Directing and Producing with special guest (TBD), professional director

Tue Oct 04 2022 (Week 7)

DUE: Director Script Analysis Presentations

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 15: Acting

Thu Oct 06 2022

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 15: Acting with special guest (TBD), professional actor

Tue Oct 11 2022 (Week 8)

DUE: Actor Script Analysis Presentations

Thu Oct 13 2022

Designer Panel: guest artists present their work and talk about their process, followed by Q&A

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 16: Scene Design

Tue Oct 18 2022 (Week 9)

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 16: Scene Design

DUE: Scenic Design Analysis Presentations

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 17: Costume Design and Makeup

Thu Oct 20 2022

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 17: Costume Design and Makeup

DUE: Costume and/or Makeup Design Analysis Presentations

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 18: Lighting and Sound Design

Tue Oct 25 2022 (Week 10)

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 18: Lighting and Sound Design

DUE: Lighting and Sound Design Analysis Presentations

Reading for Next Class: One-act Play assigned to your Final Project Group (available on Moodle)

Assignment: Check Moodle to find your final project group

Thu Oct 27 2022

Initial production team meeting with your Final Project Group
(Make up presentations, if needed)

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 11: Asian and African Theatre

Tue Nov 01 2022 (Week 11)

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 11: Asian and African Theatre

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 9: Contemporary Theatre and its Diversity

Thu Nov 03 2022

Discussion: Brockett Chapter 9: Contemporary Theatre and its Diversity

Reading for Next Class: We See You White America Theatre (available on Moodle)

Tue Nov 08 2022 (Week 12)

Discussion: We See You White American Theatre

Assignment: Create your own suggestions (5 – 10) for making theatre at the university more equitable and accessible **DUE by class time November 10 (Submit on Moodle)**

Thu Nov 10 2022

Class Project: Using the suggestions that you and your classmates created, build a list of suggestions (or demands!) for making theatre more equitable and accessible in the style of WSYWAT that will be presented to the Theatre Department

Reading for Next Class: Brockett Chapter 2: The Audience and Criticism

Assignment: Find a theatre review of your choosing and post it to Moodle **DUE November 15**

Tue Nov 15 2022 (Week 13)

Class Discussion: Brockett Chapter 2: The Audience and Criticism
Let's talk about theatre etiquette (and why it should and is changing)

Reading for Next Class: FALL PRODUCTION Script

Assignment: Evaluate and critique (as a reply) at least two reviews posted by your fellow students on Moodle.

Thu Nov 17 2022

Discussion: FALL PRODUCTION Script

Assignment: Attend FALL PRODUCTION and create a response to the production (not the script) **DUE by November 29**

Tue Nov 22 2022 (Week 14)

Class discussion of FALL PRODUCTION with the show's director.

Thu Nov 24 2022 – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Tue Nov 29 2022 (Week 15)

Group Work: Final Projects

DUE: Fall Production Response

Thu Dec 01 2022

Group Work: Final Projects

Tue Dec 06 2022 (Week 16)

DUE Final Project Presentations

Thu Dec 08 2022

DUE Final Project Presentations

TBD Finals Week

We will use our exam time to finish final project presentations, if needed.
There is no final exam for this class.