

The University of Texas at El Paso
THEA 3322
Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

THEA 3322: Script Analysis
CRN: 12645
Term: Fall 2023
Delivery Method: In-person
Meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays 13:30-14:50
Location: Fox Fine Arts, Room D180

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rebecca Frost Mayer, MFA (she/her); Assistant Professor of Instruction
Written Communication: Send email to rfmayer@utep.edu; allow 48 hours for response and please check your email before asking for verbal confirmation of receipt.
Phone Number: (915)747-5502
Office Location: Prospect Hall, Room 307
Office Hours:

- Face-to-Face: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 by drop-in
- Virtual: Same as above; please log into Microsoft Teams and dial me.
- Office hours also available by appointment; please email to request appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of the structure of play scripts from classicism to post-modernism. Students are provided basic analytical tools necessary to comprehend the literary texts of plays and the application of those texts to the various areas of production.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Approach dramatic texts from the perspectives of actors, directors, designers, technicians, critics and audience members.	Critical Thinking Skills Communication Global Awareness
Identify dramatic elements including given circumstances, plot elements, character arc, historical context, and cultural implications of dramatic texts from various periods and cultural perspectives.	Critical Thinking Skills Problem solving Global Awareness
Combine objective analysis skills with creative experimentation to devise theatrical concepts and execution plans for productions of dramatic texts.	Critical Thinking Skills Problem Solving Communication Skills Teamwork Entrepreneurship
Engage in large- and small-group discussions to explore topics including translation and adaptation, dramatic forms and genres and the practical application of script analysis skills.	Communication Teamwork

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Four dramatic texts are required in book or digital form:

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2011.

*Other editions including digital versions may be acceptable; ask instructor for details.

Molière. *The Learned Ladies*.

*Appears in several anthologies and in versions by various publishers. Translation by Richard Wilbur required.

Stein, Gertrude. *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*. [First electronic edition]., Alexander Street Press, 2005.

*Several documented scripts of produced versions of this play are available online; use the one from Alexander Street Press, available through the UTEP library.

McMullen, Catya. *Agnes*. Acting edition available through Dramatists Play Service.

Students are required to attend two UTEP productions (see below and on Blackboard for details) and should budget for tickets. While it's possible to purchase these tickets at the student rate, it's also possible to receive complimentary tickets by working as an usher or crew member. It's your responsibility to actively seek these opportunities; some information is provided on Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing to "View Rubric" from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Each assignment will be graded according to the rubric; when the composite of these grades is totaled, grades will be distributed as follows (total percentage will be rounded to the *nearest* tenth of a percent):

- 89.5% and above: A
- 79.5% - 89.4%: B
- 69.5% - 79.4%: C
- 59.5% - 69.4%: D
- 0 - 59.4%: F

Grading:

Assignment or activity	Maximum points possible
Attendance at or participation in UTEP production of <i>posdata: Or, What I Wish I Said</i>	25
In-class discussion of UTEP production of <i>posdata</i> <i>If student chooses not to attend class on the designated discussion day, they may email a five-paragraph reaction paper to the instructor within 24 hours of the discussion. It will only be accepted if the student notifies the instructor of the absence prior to class and will only be worth 15 points.</i>	25
Attendance at or participation in UTEP production of <i>Metamorphoses</i>	25
In-class discussion of UTEP production of <i>Metamorphoses</i> <i>If student chooses not to attend class on the designated discussion day, they may email a five-paragraph reaction paper to the instructor within 24 hours of the discussion. It will only be accepted if the student notifies the instructor of the absence prior to class and will only be worth 15 points.</i>	25
Props list and design project: <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	100
Rehearsal schedule project: <i>The Learned Ladies</i>	100
Design inspiration project: <i>Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights</i>	100
Actor homework project: <i>Agnes</i>	100
Final project: written portion	100
Final project: verbal portion	100

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Requests for leniency on due dates and late work are subject to instructor discretion. In order for a due date extension to be granted, the student must contact the instructor via email *before* the day and time that the assignment is due. Please remember to allow 48 hours for instructor response excluding weekends. In most cases, an assignment submitted late with an extension granted before the due date will be graded according to the rubric and then multiplied by 70 percent; in other words, an extension means that you will be penalized by 30 percent.

If a student has a CASS accommodation that includes leniency on or revision of deadlines, it is still incumbent on the student to communicate with the instructor regarding deadlines and due dates. The student cannot assume that the CASS accommodation equals automatic permission to disregard deadlines.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT will not be possible in this course due to the structure of the assignments.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Personal Boundaries and Consent - Rights and Responsibilities:

Activities and assignments may include physical contact with other class members. You will be given adequate time and space during instruction to discuss your boundaries with partners and grant consent or decline to consent each time before working together. You will not be penalized for asking for alternative instructions, activities, or partners.

Theatre is a physically, intellectually, and emotionally demanding art form. If you need to take a moment to look out for yourself or be alone, you may do so in the studio or briefly step out.

Classroom Policies - Exclusive to Mayer's THEA 3322 in D180:

Water, beverages, and snacks are permitted; please eat and drink quietly, avoid noisy foods or packaging, and clean up before leaving the classroom.

Daily tasks and assignments are subject to change at instructor discretion.

Limit use of your phone during class. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to put away phones or stop using them during discussions or activities.

A note on subject matter (Department of Theatre and Dance):

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable discussing. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I expect all discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

Syllabus Acceptance:

This syllabus resides on Blackboard. In order to continue participation in this course, you must complete the **Syllabus Acceptance** assignment on Blackboard by the due date. This assignment includes a digital signature indicating that you have asked the *instructor* any questions you may have about the course and your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.

Failure to complete the Syllabus Acceptance assignment by the due date may result in dismissal from the course.