



DRAM 2355 – Script Analysis

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Page Petrucka, PhD

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Weekday	Office Hours
Monday through Thursday	8:30 – 9:30 Daily and As Posted

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: 3 Credit Hours

Examination of foundational skills for understanding the structure and content of play scripts for interpretation and conceptualization in theatre productions by directors, designers, actors, and technicians. Introduces students to significant plays in the history of dramatic literature in the playwright's social and cultural context.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes - Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze dramatic action, character, setting, genre, and themes in selected play scripts.
2. Identify major structural components of a play script.
3. Articulate a broad contextual understanding of dramatic literature.
4. Develop a process for interpretation of play scripts.

Evaluation/Grading Policy - The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

1) Quizzes: Students will need to complete quizzes from the various assigned readings.

8 quizzes @ 20 points each – 160 possible points

2) Assignments: Students will complete five written assignments referencing the materials covered in class. These are to be submitted on Blackboard by the due date as listed in the class calendar.

5 Assignments @ 40 points each – 200 possible points

3) Play Readings: Students will need to read four plays to be analyzed throughout the 8 weeks. These plays include:

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Simon Stephens

Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl

Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang

4) “Working Backwards” Presentation: Each student will need to present their play script breakdown using Ball’s Backwards Method. The presentation should be 7-10 minutes in length and a handout will be provided to the student regarding the content.

Presentation – 100 possible points

5) Final Exam:

The Final Exam will each be worth 140 points.

GRADING Point Totals

600 – 540 points: A

539 – 480 points: B

479 – 420 points: C

419 – 360 points: D

359 and below: F

All Assignments Will Graded & Posted on Blackboard Within 7 Days.

Required Instructional Materials:

Backwards and Forwards by David Ball

Publisher: McGraw Hill

ISBN Number: 978-1-264-04905-0

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Simon Stephens

Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

Optional Instructional Materials:

None

Minimum Technology Requirements:

You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. If you do not have access to a computer with the minimum computer requirements, I strongly suggest that you reconsider taking this online course.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

NTCC Blackboard, Student E-mail, Word Processing.

Course Structure and Overview: See Evaluation/Grading Policy

Communications:

Please use your NTCC Student E-mail for all correspondence and not Blackboard messaging. I will respond within 24 hours.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Late work: All assignments must be completed on time. Quizzes cannot be made up, as they are used as student preparation for class discussions.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not permitted during class time. Please put them away.

Attendance: Attendance is vital to learning and student success. ***Therefore, students can only miss three (3) class periods during the eight weeks.*** If a student reaches four (4) absences, they cannot expect to receive a passing grade in the class.

Medical emergencies and illness can be excused with a doctor's note. For all other issues, please contact the instructor directly.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. ***A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.***

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Individual Course Policy Regarding AI:

1. All papers and essays will be run through Turnitin. If any paper shows an AI percentage rate of 25% or above, the student will be given an Automatic Zero.
2. At that point, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor immediately.
3. In order to resolve the Zero, Students must make time during the professor's office hours to explain/discuss the issue. This meeting can be held either Face to Face or through Teams.
4. Any rewritten assignment due to AI usage can only expect to receive up to 80% of the original grade.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change):

Day/Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
M 8/24	Introduction / Structure Analysis	Syllabus / Ball pages 3 - 6	
W 8/26	Aristotle / Freytag	Poetics Parts V-VII/ Freytag Explained	Quiz #1 / Quiz #2
M 8/31	Discussion: <i>Curious Incident</i>	Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	Quiz #3
W 9/2	Stasis and Intrusion / Class Presentation Discussion	Ball pages 19 – 24, 39 - 44	
M 9/7	No Class / Labor Day		
W 9/9	The Writer's Journey		Structure I Assignment
M 9/14	Rising Action / Finishing Structure	Ball pages 25 - 31	
W 9/16	Discussion: Eurydice / Musicals	<i>Eurydice</i>	Quiz #4
M 9/21	Watch: <i>The Map of Tiny, Perfect Things</i>		Quiz #5
W 9/23	Discussion: <i>Tiny, Perfect Things</i> / Pixar Story Structure		Musicals Assignment
M 9/28	Backwards Method / Character	Ball pages 9 – 18, 60 - 67	Quiz #6 – Play Structure
W 9/30	Film Structure Discussion / Tropes	Film Structure (8 Sequences)	Structure II Assignment
M 10/5	Fuch's Method / Tarot Card Method	Fuch's Method / Tarot Card Method	Quiz #7 / Tropes Assignment /
W 10/7	<i>Doubt</i> / Image, Language, Theme	<i>Doubt</i> / Ball pages 68 - 78	Quiz #8
M 10/12	Discussion: <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i> / Theatricality and Forwards	<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i> / Ball pages 35-36, 45-59	Additional Methods
W 10/14	Presentations / Last Day of Class		“Working Backwards” Presentations
Sunday 10/18	Final Due on Blackboard		