



DRAM 2355 – Script Analysis

Course Syllabus: Fall 2023

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

Instructor: Page Petrucka, PhD

Office: Whatley Center, 142

Phone: (903) 434-8395

Email: ppetrucka@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8:30 – 11 am	8:30 – 11 am	8:30 – 11 am	8:30 – 11 am	

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 method of assessment will be 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 semester. 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 should cover the following information:

Presentation – 100 possible points

5) Midterm and Final Exam:

The Midterm and Final Exam will each be worth 70 points.

Midterm Exam – 70 possible points

Final Exam – 70 possible points

GRADING Point Totals

600 – 540 points: A

539 – 480 points: B

479 – 420 points: C

419 – 360 points: D

359 and below: F

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:

✓ Daily high-speed internet access

- ✓ Microsoft Word
- ✓ Power Point

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

- ✓ Rename, delete, organize, and save files.
- ✓ Create, edit, and format word processing and presentation documents.
- ✓ Copy, paste, and use a URL or web address.
- ✓ Download and install programs and plug-ins.
- ✓ Send and receive an email with attachments.
- ✓ Locate and access information using a web search engine.
- ✓ Use a learning management system.
- ✓ Attach a file

Course Structure and Overview: See Evaluation and Grading Policy

Communications: Communication with instructor must be done through NTCC official email only. Turnaround time for email responses is 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 five (5) class periods during the semester.* If a student reaches six (6) 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.

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 accommodations 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 accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. 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.

Eagle Assist

At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often need support that extends beyond the classroom. "Eagle Assist" is the place to start when looking for that type of assistance. Our support system is here to help you succeed in both your academic and personal growth. www.ntcc.edu/eagleassist

Services provided:

- [Mental Health Counseling](#)
- [Classroom Accommodations](#)
- [NTCC Care Center Food Pantry](#)
- [NTCC Care Center Hygiene Closet](#)
- [NTCC Care Center Cook Nook](#)
- [Financial Literacy](#)
- [Child Care Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Aid](#)

Can't find what you are looking for? Send us a message at eagleassist@ntcc.edu
[Mental Health Counseling Services](#) are available to all NTCC students.

- Visit the following page to get your account activated:
www.thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntcc
- Dual credit students please email the instructor if interested.

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 Course Timeline: (Instructor reserves the right to adjust this timeline at any point in the term)

Day/Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
T 8/29	Introduction / Discussion	Syllabus	
TH 8/31	Structural Analysis	Ball 3 - 6	
T 9/5	Aristotle Discussion	Aristotle Poetics Parts V - VII	Quiz #1
TH 9/7	Freitag Discussion	Freitag Explained	Quiz #2
T 9/12	Discussion: <i>Curious Incident</i>	<i>Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i>	Quiz #3
TH 9/14	Stasis and Intrusion	Ball 19 – 24, 39 - 44	
T 9/19	The Writer's Journey		Structure I Assignment
TH 9/21	Rising Action	Ball 25-31	
T 9/26	Discussion: <i>Eurydice</i>	<i>Eurydice</i>	Quiz #4
TH 9/28	Finishing the Structure		

T 10/3	Watch: <i>The Map of Tiny, Perfect Things</i>		Quiz #5
TH 10/5	Discussion: <i>Tiny, Perfect Things</i>	Read Ball 9-18	Quiz #6
T 10/10	Backwards Method		Structure II Assignment
TH 10/12	Pixar Story Structure		Quiz #6 – Play Structure
T 10/17	Film Structure Discussion	Film Structure (8 Sequences)	
TH 10/19	Tropes		
T 10/24	Midterm		
TH 10/26	Fuch’s Method Discussion	Fuch’s Method	Tropes Assignment
T 10/31	Discussion: <i>Doubt</i>	<i>Doubt</i>	Quiz #7
TH 11/2	Tarot Method Discussion	Tarot Method	
T 11/7	Theatricality and Forwards	Ball 35-36, 45-59	Additional Methods
TH 11/9	Image, Language, and Theme	Ball 68-78	
T 11/14	Character	Ball 60-67	
TH 11/16	Discussion: <i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	<i>Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike</i>	Quiz #8
11/20 – 11/24	No Class	Thanksgiving Break	
T 11/28	Musicals		
TH 11/30	Work on Presentations		Musicals Assignment
T 12/5	Presentation Day		“Working Backwards” Presentations
TH 12/7	Last Day of Class/Wrap Up		

T 12/ 12	Final Essay Due on Blackboard		
F 12/15	Fall Graduation		