SCRIPT ANALYSIS
THR 3311.001, MWF 9:00-9:50am EN104
Fall 2019
Instructor: Dr. Thomas A. Oldham

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays 11:00am-1:00pm
Wednesdays 11:00am-1:00pm
Fridays 11:00am-noon

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Thomas.Oldham@tamucc.edu; Bay Hall 366; phone number: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is entitled Script Analysis, and its goal is nothing more nor less than that: to foster techniques for analyzing and understanding the text of plays, both on the page and on the stage. We will study play scripts with particular attention paid to both the theoretical framework of Aristotle’s Poetics and the practical framework of reading for theatrical production. This means not only looking at plays through the eyes of theatre practitioners (actors, directors, designers, etc.), but also audience members individually and as a community.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Students will gain the skills necessary to analyze scripts from the point of view of both theorists and practitioners. This includes foundational knowledge and comprehension of literary techniques, historical background, and aesthetic principles.
2. Students will develop research skills, bringing in external sources to inform their analysis.
3. Students will communicate their analysis in writing and orally.
4. Students will utilize the varied communication skills of scholars, critics, and theatre practitioners.
5. Students will directly apply these skills to the work done on TAMUC’s stage.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:
1. Class participation and discussion
2. Analytical and practical homework assignments
3. A midterm exam, focused on key concepts
4. Written research papers and oral presentation

COURSE MATERIALS:
Textbooks:
OPTIONAL: Norton Anthology of Drama, 3rd ed. TWO-VOLUME SET (ISBN: 978-0-393-28349-5) – I’m listing this as optional, because you might find it cheaper to buy both volumes at once, if you plan on taking History of the Theatre I or II in the future.

Web Access:
Additional material, announcements, and any changes to the schedule will be posted to Blackboard.
**GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:**

- **100 points** Participation
- **200 points** Homework Assignments (10 assignments @ 20 points each)
- **200 points** Midterm Exam
- **200 points** *Hamlet* Production Paper
- **300 points** Dramatic Criticism Project (100 points = Presentation; 200 points = Paper)

1000 points total

**Grading Scale:**

- A=100-90% (above 900 points)
- B=89-80% (800-899 points)
- C=79-70% (700-799 points)
- D=69-60% (600-699 points)
- F=59-0% (000-599 points)

**LATE WORK:**

No late work will be accepted.

**PARTICIPATION:**

To receive full credit, show up prepared (and on time!) and contribute thoughtfully to discussions daily. Share your point of view; ask questions; analyze and critique the readings. For this to be a successful class, everyone must contribute. Be respectful (no personal attacks or harassment will be tolerated). Do NOT interrupt a fellow student, but feel free to interrupt me, especially if something needs clarification.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be ten homework assignments worth twenty points each. Handouts will explain individual assignments in further detail. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned.

**EXAM:**

There will be one midterm exam, covering the material discussed in class. It will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**PAPERS:**

There will be two papers of approximately 1500 words: one, analyzing *Hamlet*, comparing/contrasting the play as read to the production our department stages; the other, an analysis of a play not on this syllabus, of your own choosing, but approved by me. The second paper will also be accompanied by an oral presentation to the class. More details on these papers will be given closer to their due dates.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions). Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with the instructor immediately to make such an exception viable BEFORE your absence.
TARDIES:
Three late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to withdraw from this class is November 8th.

GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in
the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

STATEMENT OF CIVILITY
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
### COURSE OUTLINE:

Schedule subject to change.

unless otherwise noted, all readings are from the Norton Anthology, Shorter 3rd Ed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Aug 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Aug 28</td>
<td>Traditional Structure</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Trifles</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Aug 30</td>
<td>Traditional Structure</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Oedipus the King</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Sep 2</td>
<td>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Sep 4</td>
<td>Tragedy-Greek</td>
<td>DUE: The Poetics (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Fri, Sep 6</td>
<td>Tragedy-Greek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Sep 9</td>
<td>Tragedy-Elizabethan</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Hamlet</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Sep 11</td>
<td>Tragedy-Elizabethan</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Backwards &amp; Forwards</em>, Pt. 1 (not in anthology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Sep 13</td>
<td>Tragedy-Elizabethan</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Backwards &amp; Forwards</em>, Pts. 2-3 (not in anthology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Sep 16</td>
<td>Tragedy- Modern?</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Death of a Salesman</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Sep 18</td>
<td>Tragedy- Modern?</td>
<td>DUE: Tragedy and the Common Man (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Fri, Sep 20</td>
<td>Comedy</td>
<td>DUE: tragedy assignment</td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 23</td>
<td>Comedy</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Tartuffe</em></td>
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<td>Wed, Sep 25</td>
<td>Comedy</td>
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<td>Fri, Sep 27</td>
<td>Comedy</td>
<td>DUE: <em>The Importance of Being Earnest</em></td>
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<td>Mon, Sep 30</td>
<td>Comedy</td>
<td>DUE: comedy assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Oct 2</td>
<td>Mixed Forms</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Life is a Dream</em> (in full anthology, or on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 4</td>
<td>Mixed Forms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Oct 7</td>
<td>Mixed Forms</td>
<td>DUE: <em>The Poor of New York</em> (on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 9</td>
<td>Mixed Forms</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 11</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Oct 14</td>
<td>Thinking Like an Actor</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Fences</em></td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Oct 21</td>
<td><em>Let the Right One In</em> discussion</td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 23</td>
<td>Thinking Like an Actor</td>
<td>DUE: <em>The Homecoming</em></td>
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<td>Thinking Like an Actor</td>
<td>DUE: subtext assignment</td>
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<td>Mon, Oct 28</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Designer</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Machinal</em></td>
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<td>Wed, Oct 30</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Designer</td>
<td>DUE: sound/lights assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Nov 1</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Designer</td>
<td>DUE: <em>Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches</em></td>
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<td>Mon, Nov 4</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Designer</td>
<td>DUE: costume assignment</td>
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<td>Thinking Like a Designer</td>
<td>DUE: set assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, Nov 8</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Director</td>
<td><em>How I Learned to Drive</em></td>
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Wed, Oct 30: Thinking Like a Designer  DUE: sound/lights assignment
Fri, Nov 1: Thinking Like a Designer  DUE: *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches*

Mon, Nov 4: Thinking Like a Designer  DUE: costume assignment
Wed, Nov 6: Thinking Like a Designer  DUE: set assignment
Fri, Nov 8: Thinking Like a Director  *How I Learned to Drive*
Mon, Nov 11  Thinking Like a Director
Wed, Nov 13  Thinking Like a Director  DUE: *Six Character in Search of an Author*
Fri, Nov 15  Thinking Like a Director  DUE: concept assignment

Mon, Nov 18  *Hamlet* discussion  DUE: *Hamlet* paper
Wed, Nov 20  Presentations
Fri, Nov 22  Presentations

Mon, Nov 25  Presentations
Wed, Nov 27  READING DAY-NO CLASS
Fri, Nov 29  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS-NO CLASS

Mon, Dec 2  Non-Realism  DUE: *The America Play*
Wed, Dec 4  Non-Realism  DUE: non-realism assignment

Mon, Dec 9, 8:00-10:30am:  Final Dramatic Criticism Paper Due