



**THE 511 – DRAMATIC THEORY
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012
T 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center #112**

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Klypchak, Associate Professor of Theatre

Office Location: Performing Arts Center #129

**Office Hours: : M and W 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; H 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(and by appointment)**

Office Phone: 903-886-5344

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COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

***Dramatic Theory and Criticism: Greeks to Grotowski* by Bernard F. Dukore.**

New, this text is quite expensive and will not be carried by our bookstore this semester. However, you should be able to find it used for about \$35.00 (plus shipping) online. You should purchase this text for your work/reading in the current course as well as for your future studies/career in theatre; the book “makes available the chief documents in dramatic theory” and is incredibly valuable to have in your library as a theatre scholar. I will also place a copy of this text on “in-house,” two hour reserve in the library for the student’s use.

Plays (bolded on the schedule) should be readily available from your personal library, the Alpha Psi Library, and/or the Gee Library.

(Strongly) Recommended Text:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th Edition.

You are highly encouraged to acquire this text as soon as possible for your work in this course and throughout your graduate studies. While the bookstore will probably have copies of this text in stock for your purchase, you can also find it used online for as low as \$13.48 (plus shipping). Please *do not* purchase an earlier edition of this text; significant differences in information exist.

Required Viewing:

Proof

by David Auburn

directed by Jim Tyler Anderson

produced by the University Playhouse at Texas A&M – Commerce

Oct. 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 at 8:00 p.m. and October 14 at 3 p.m.

**Note: Please understand that viewing a performance of the show listed above is an absolute requirement of the course and integral to completing assignments. Clear your schedule now! If you cannot attend one of these performances, for whatever reason, drop this class and re-enroll during a semester when your schedule will permit you to fully meet the course requirements.*

Recommended Viewing:

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeleine L'Engle

adapted for the Stage by James Sie

directed by Carrie Klypchak

produced by the University Playhouse at Texas A&M – Commerce

Saturday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 18 at 3:00 p.m.

University Playhouse Reservations/Tickets:

Tickets are available for a nominal fee from the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900.

Ticket Prices: TAMU-C Students (with Valid Student ID) and Children under 18 - \$3.00; Senior Citizens (ages 60+) - \$8.00; Adults - \$10.00

Course Description:

This course offers studies of the major documents in the evolution of dramatic theory, from classical foundations through the 18th Century (where other courses in this program, such as Development of Modern Theatre and Directing Theory, generally “pick-up”).

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. display a learned knowledge of major theoretical works of drama.
2. articulate critically informed personal standards of aesthetic judgment.
3. synthesize academic research into cohesive scholarly writing and oral presentation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments (Tentative):

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (15%): Your Active Participation will play a substantial role in acquiring your final grade – for good reason! This graduate course is structured to support a “community of learners.” In order to contribute to the community, you must come to class fully alert (not under the influence of... anything!), prepared, and ready to actively participate in discussions of assigned readings or engagement in determined activities, etc. Be aware that the “participation” aspect of your grade requires more than simply being present or arriving to class on time (although absences and late arrivals/early departures will significantly reduce your Active Participation grade). *Please keep in mind that you must be present in order to participate.* Lack of demonstrable preparation will have a substantial negative impact on your course grade.

As graduate students you should realize the importance of acquiring skill in voicing your opinions during discussion in positive and respectful ways. Realize that sometimes you will have to agree to disagree with other members of the class. As I know that you all can do: avoid “knee-jerk reactions” and frame your comments respectfully, with scholarly intelligence, and as a point of academic discourse. *Disrespect, rudeness, or offensive language of any kind has no place in the classroom. If such an instance occurs (either toward another student or the instructor), I will ask the student to leave and/or substantial points will be reduced from the student’s Active Participation grade.*

Participation grades will be calculated daily and reflected upon/tabulated at the end of the semester. *Each student will begin with a mid-passing Participation grade of an 80.* Strong effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole will either raise or lower that grade.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.*

FACEBOOK GROUP POSTINGS (10 @ 1% each): You will be invited to join a facebook group (only the members of our class will be able to see the posts) in which you will develop and post thought-provoking discussion questions that would stimulate discourse and reflection regarding the readings for each week. Discussion questions must be posted by 10 p.m. the Sunday before each class. Each class member will then “like” three of the posted discussion questions that s/he finds most provocative. “Likes” must take place no later than 10 p.m. each Monday. You will then reflect on the discussion questions with the most “likes” and be prepared to discuss in class. It should be clear that in this way, *you* are driving the direction and depth of much of the class discussion. So, you should really put great thought and effort into the framing of your question and in reflection on the determined discussion questions for class. Remember, this is your education and your classmates’ educations – make it count, folks! You will be graded on the depth and thought evident in your discussion questions. If you do not meet the posting and/or likes deadlines for the week, you will receive an automatic zero for that week’s installment of the facebook group postings grade. Further discussion regarding this assignment will take place during class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 1 and 2.*

READINGS PRESENTATIONS (3 at 10% each): Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to make three oral presentations over assigned theorists/readings as well as to lead discussion for a portion of those days’ class. Each of these presentations will require outside scholarly research by the presenter. You should plan your presentation very carefully to fall within the timeframe communicated by the instructor. You should provide each person in the class (including the instructor) with a handout which includes: a *professionally relevant* biographical sketch of the theorist in question, the theorist’s main contributions to dramatic theory, and an outline the major points/concepts in the assigned readings. *You must also come prepared with questions and topics to stimulate class discussion and be able to answer questions from your colleagues about the theorist.* You will be graded on the content of your presentation/handout, the structure/construction of your presentation/handout, ability to lead class discussion effectively, ability to field your peers’ questions, and the overall professionalism/preparedness exhibited. I will provide you with a more in-depth overview of presentation requirements during class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 1 and 3.*

STANDARDS OF AESTHETIC JUDGMENT ESSAY (10%): This is to be a five page essay in which you clearly state your own criteria for evaluating a work of art and use your observations from *Proof* as illustrations to support your views. The paper should be written in a standard scholarly form. This is not merely a discussion of art, nor is it a description of what a critic should do. Rather *it is to be your personal statement of how you judge a work of art to be superior to another*. My primary interest is in the depth and clarity of your thought. It is not necessary to provide citations or a Works Cited page unless you choose to cite lines from *Proof* or another work when illustrating your points. I will provide a more in-depth overview of this assignment during class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 2.*

RESEARCH PROPOSAL (5%): An initial proposal for your final research paper of 250 words will be submitted in abstract form. You should spend considerable time and effort in developing your abstract. The abstract should include an introduction to your proposed topic, primary research question, your primary method(s) of research, relevancy of the study, etc. After your topic has been approved, you may prepare your final essay. Your research proposal will be graded on both content and construction. I will provide you with a sample abstract proposal as a guide and discuss requirements in more depth during class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 1 and 3.*

PEER REVIEW PROJECT (5%): You will conduct one peer review of another student's research paper. The peer review will analyze the content and the construction of the essay in question, offer commentary regarding strengths and points for improvement in the essay, and/or consider theoretical perspectives as covered in this course. The peer review will follow the guidelines and format offered by the instructor. Additional in-depth criteria for this assignment and grading will be given at a later date.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 3.*

RESEARCH PAPER (20%): You will be required to write a conference-length (8-10 pages) research paper on a topic of your own selection that is informed by theoretical and/or historical work in the fields of theatre and/or performance and that intersects with the topic of this course in some way. *Please note that you may focus your research on dramatic theory after the 18th century if you so choose*. Your paper should be comprised of original, focused research on a selected topic which could eventually lead to conference presentation or be built upon for publication. You are strongly encouraged to submit a paper that could inform your thesis or 595 paper. Your paper should use acceptable quality writing practices, and you should utilize an acceptable number (and variety) of scholarly sources. The paper should be written in a standard scholarly form using the style of MLA. You are also required to include an appropriate Works Cited in accordance with MLA. Your final essay will be graded on both content and construction. Please use your best writing skills. We will have additional in-depth discussions about the requirements of this assignment in class at a later date.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3.*

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION (5%): You are required to present a fifteen to twenty minute formal reading of your research essay. This presentation should provide an overview of your research methodology, primary research question, major findings, etc. Please plan your

presentation carefully and offer it to the class in a formal, well-rehearsed manner. You will be graded on your preparedness, your ability to knowledgeably respond to questions from the audience, and the professionalism exhibited in your formal presentation. We will have additional in-depth discussion about the requirements of this assignment in class at a later date.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3.*

Grading:

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

A	90%-100%	(Exceptional Quality Work)
B	80%-89%	(Above Average Quality Work)
C	70%-79%	(Average Quality Work)
D	60%-69%	(Below Average Quality Work)
F	0%-59%	(Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

FACEBOOK ACCOUNT AND INTERNET ACCESS: In this class, you must have a facebook account and internet access. Please let me know if you are using another name on your facebook account for whatever reason.

SAVING OF ASSIGNMENTS: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a disc or thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your graded and originally developed assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Dr. Klypchak:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. I am usually in my office a great deal. Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Student Resources:**Department of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre**

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101
 Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103
<http://www.tamuc.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**Course Specific Procedures:**

ATTENDANCE: Prompt attendance is expected at all class meetings. If, for any reason, you have more than one absence during the semester, this will have a substantial impact on your overall course grade. You are expected to have completed all reading material and/or assignments for a given date prior to class time; the totality of your knowledge of reading materials will be evaluated on the basis of your contributions to group discussion. You are allowed one *emergency* absence in this course. Under normal circumstances, upon the second absence, the student will receive a deduction of five points from his/her final grade; upon the third absence, the student will receive another five point deduction from his/her final grade; *due to the discussion-based nature of this course, upon the fourth absence the student will either be administratively dropped from or receive an automatic F in the course (depending on the point in the semester).*

*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link:
<http://www7.tamuc.edu/registrar/attendance.asp>

LATE ARRIVALS: Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. The class will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.! If you arrive after 4:10 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. Arrival within the ten minute grace period constitutes a "late arrival." Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. An early departure will significantly reduce your participation grade as well. *Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.*

During each class period, you will receive a ten-minute break. You are expected to be back in the classroom within ten minutes (without having to be told to come back). We are all adults, and we can all remain aware of the time, arriving back into the classroom within ten minutes. Otherwise, you will be marked as a "late arrival," and the same policies outlined above for late arrivals at the beginning of class apply.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Drafts of essays/projects cannot be accepted after the announced due date, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor *in advance* (extensions to be granted only in an extreme emergency situation). Presentations must be made during the

assigned class sessions or these will not count toward the final grade. Under normal circumstances, being absent on the date of an assigned presentation will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Due to the fluid nature of this class, some assignments may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

INCOMPLETES: Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will not be given as a final grade in this course.

CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS: Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, you are welcome to take class notes on a laptop computer. However, laptops should only be used for taking notes over the current discussions. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

WRITTEN WORK: Unless otherwise noted, all written work should utilize one-inch margins on all sides, be written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and be double spaced (please remember that you *must* go into “Page Layout” in Word and bring the spacing in the “After” field down to zero). The “house style” for this course is MLA. This means that unless you receive *advance permission* to use another acceptable style in your written work for a specifically justified reason, you must use appropriate MLA formatting, etc. in all of your work. Please only write on the front of each page, include your name on each page that you submit, and staple your papers.

EXTRA CREDIT: As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: This course adheres strictly to the college’s guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student’s Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated.

Note: All of your work must be new and created for this class during this semester; otherwise, you can be accused of plagiarizing yourself – which falls under the category of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to be sure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the head of the department, who will in turn decide the appropriate course of action. Remember: Citing=good; Not Citing=very bad! Make sure that you understand the intricacies of citations, formatting, etc., so that you avoid unintentional plagiarism at all costs. (Please be aware that an instance of academic dishonesty could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester or worse – suspension from the program.)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
 Texas A&M University-Commerce
 James G. Gee Library
 Room 132
 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
 Fax (903) 468-8148
 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University - Commerce.*

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Student's Guide Handbook*, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Very Tentative Schedule: (Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor – many adjustments in content and/or scheduling may take place as a result of the final number of students enrolled in the course. Please note that outlined readings below are primarily *excerpts* found in the Dukore text; full-length plays are bolded.)

Tuesday, August 28

Introduction to Course/Introduction to Dramatic Theory
 Overview of Facebook Group Postings
 Overview of Oral Presentations/Topics Determined

Tuesday, September 4

Plato, *The Republic*
Oedipus the King, Sophocles
 Aristotle, *Poetics*

Tuesday, September 11

Horace, *The Art of Poetry*
Oedipus, Seneca
 Longinus, *On the Sublime*

Tuesday, September 18

Tertullian, *On the Spectacles*
 St. Augustine, *The City of God*
 Anonymous, *A Sermon Against Miracle Plays*

Tuesday, September 25

Cinthio, *Discourses on Comedies and Tragedies*
 Scaliger, *Poetics*
 Castlevetro, *On Aristotle's Poetics*

Tuesday, October 2

Johnson, *Induction to A Warning for Fair Women*
Preface to Sejanus, His Fall
Dedication to Volpone
Volpone
Timber, or Discoveries Made upon Men and Matter

Tuesday, October 9

NO FORMAL CLASS MEETING – REQUIRED VIEWING OF *Proof*
 DUE: RESEARCH PROPOSAL
 Submission via email attachment in .doc or .docx *only* by 5 p.m. to:
 Carrie.Klypchak@tamuc.edu

Tuesday, October 16

Lope de Vega, *The New Art of Writing Plays*
 Scudery, *Observations on The Cid*
 Cornielle, *Apologetic Letter*
 The French Academy, *The Opinions of the French Academy*
 Cornielle, *Discourses*

Tuesday, October 23

Moliere, **School for Wives**
Critique of School for Wives
The Improvisation at Versailles
Preface to Tartuffe
 DUE: STANDARDS OF AESTHETIC JUDGMENT ESSAY

Tuesday, October 30

Racine, *First Preface to Andromache*
First Preface to Britannicus
Preface to Berenice
Preface to Phaedra
Phaedra

Tuesday, November 6

Voltaire, *Preface to Oedipus*
A Discourse on Tragedy
Letter to Horace Walpole
 Diderot, *Encyclopedia*
On Dramatic Poetry

Tuesday, November 13

Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy*
A Defense of an Essay of Dramatic Poesy
Preface to An Evening's Love
Preface to All for Love
 Johnson, *The Rambler, No. 92*
The Rambler, No. 156
A Dictionary of the English Language
Preface to The Plays of William Shakespeare
General Observations on King Lear

Tuesday, November 20

Lessing, *Hamburg Dramaturgy*

Schiller, *On the Use of the Chorus in Tragedy*

Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*

On Truth and Probability in Works of Art

Tuesday, November 27

RESEARCH ESSAY FINAL PRESENTATIONS (Group 1)

DUE: RESEARCH ESSAY FOR PEER REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, December 4

RESEARCH ESSAY FINAL PRESENTATIONS (Group 2)

DUE: PEER REVIEW PROJECT

Final Exam – Revised Research Essay due by Tuesday, December 11 at 5 p.m. Please hand-in or place in Dr. Klypchak's mailbox in the main department office (PAC 101).