SYLLABUS – INDEPENDENT STUDY: DRAMATURGY

Instructor: Dr. Inga Meier1  
Email: meieri@sfasu.edu2  
Office Hours: T, TH 3:00-5:30 + By Appointment  
Office Location: GFA 223  
Mailbox: GFA 212B (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm)  
Semester: Spring 2016  
Course Number: 491.003  
Meeting Time: Weekly, TBD  
Meeting Room: GFA 223

I. Course Description

This independent study will explore the craft of dramaturgy through the creation of a dramaturgy protocol.

II. Course Objectives

Program Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this independent study you will have achieved mastery of the following Program Learning Outcomes as identified by the School of Theatre:

- The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic. (All degree plans.)
- The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a work of theatre. (BA, BA with Teacher Certification.)
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships. (All degree plans.)

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this independent study you will be able to:

- Compile a dramaturgy protocol and actor packets to be used in production.
- Articulate and begin to execute the role of dramaturg in a production.

III. Texts + Materials

- Dramaturgy in Action by Michael X. Zelenak (provided)
- Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin (provided)

IV. Class Procedures and Policies

School of Theatre Attendance Policy: A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all scheduled meetings.

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1 You may refer to me as “Inga,” “Dr. Meier,” or “Ms. Meier.” You may not refer to me as “Prof,” “Professor Inga,” or “Doctor Inga.” If you insist on doing so, you are required to follow this wording with an acceptable title (e.g. “Yellow-Haired Warrior or “Mother of Dragons”).

2 Emails are not an instantaneous form of communication. In other words, please do not send me an email 20 minutes before class and then approach me in class, asking if I received your email. On average, expect a 24 hour turnaround time. Also, emails sent through D2L will not be answered. Please use only the SFA address.
Further:

- It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor, or physician involved upon the first day of the student’s return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university's public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. **It is the student’s responsibility** to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence, in advance when possible.

- Students missing classes, other than university-sponsored trips, may contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) and request that an absence notification be sent to the instructor(s). The notification is not an excuse, and is not evaluated by OSRR. The notification is only provided as a courtesy to the student and the student's instructor(s). Students remain responsible for providing documentation in a timely manner to the instructor for each absence. The instructor determines whether such documentation is satisfactory.

- In the case of missed classes, you will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.

- A **total of three excused and/or unexcused absences will automatically result in a failing grade.**

V. Requirements

**Dramaturgy Protocol:** The central project for the duration of the semester will be a dramaturgy protocol and related actor packets for Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin. The actual process will be divided into multiple steps with separate due dates. The breakdown of these portions is as follows:

- Preface / Introduction: 100 points
- Historical / Cultural Context: 175 points
- Production History: 175 points
- Summary of Criticism: 175 points
- Glossary: 175 points
- Actor Packets: 200

In other words, you will be working on this project for the entirety of the semester and its grading will be calculated accordingly. Due dates are **final** dates by which you may hand in the necessary portion of the paper. A late penalty of 10 points will be applied for every day that a component is late. (Exceptions may be made in particular cases in accordance with the attendance policy.) You may however, hand in any portions earlier (and I encourage you to do so.) Further, you may hand in a revision of any portion (with the exception of the final draft, for which a revision will not be allowed) with the necessary adjustments at any point prior to the due date for the next portion or ask for additional feedback at any point during the process. Please note that if one of the components you hand in does not meet the minimum requirements for that component, you will forfeit the right to improve your grade through revision for that component. (For example, if your abstract is required to be 350 words and you hand in 100 words, you will not only receive a low grade for that component, but you will also not be allowed to improve upon that grade for revision.) Should you perform a revision, and should your revision reflect **actual** improvement, I will re-grade that particular portion.
VI. Grading Policies

Grading Scale:

Final Grades are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

VII. Diversity

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

You are expected to be in full compliance with both the SFA policy and the School of Theatre policy:

SFA policy: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
School of Theatre policy: The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Please Note: You are expected to be familiar with and able to demonstrate proper procedures for citations, following either MLA or Chicago Style guidelines, both of which are available online. Failure to cite sources is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly. I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. However, this trust should not be confused for a lack of vigilance on my part. If you are caught, I will consider it a violation of personal trust and will not hesitate to penalize you to the fullest extent possible. I guarantee that the penalty you may incur for a late assignment will be less than the penalty for academic dishonesty.

IX. Additional Information

If you have a disability: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities MUST contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Religious observance: If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.

X. Course Outline (Subject to Change!)³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>Introduction and Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Dramaturgy in Action / Picasso at the Lapin Agile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Glossary Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>Historical / Cultural Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>Historical / Cultural Context Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/29</td>
<td>Production History</td>
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</tbody>
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³ Due to a variety of circumstances, the course outline may change. This may include changes to the screening titles and changes to dates on which certain topics are covered or reading is due. It is your responsibility to remain abreast of any changes to the course outline.
3/7      Production History Due
3/14     **NO MEETING** (Spring Break)
3/21     Summary of Criticism
3/28     **NO MEETING** (Easter Break)
4/4      Summary of Criticism Due
4/11     Actor Packets
4/18     Actor Packets Due
4/25     Final Review
5/2      FINAL PROTOCOL AND ACTOR PACKETS DUE