

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA 1020

INTRODUCTION TO PLAY ANALYSIS UT 3 (3-0-0)

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Room: L117

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Description:

Understanding of drama through critical analysis of plays. Development of analytical techniques and strategies designed to enhance the appreciation of drama.

Objectives:

1. To provide understanding of drama through critical analysis of plays.
2. To enhance the student's grasp of the structure and felt-experience of drama, its content and meaning, and its potential life as art.
3. To enhance the student's appreciation of drama, both written and performed.

Syllabus:

1. The nature of dramatic art.
2. The elements of drama; plot, character, thought, diction, rhythm/music, and spectacle.
3. Topics central to drama; action, theme, genre (tragedy, comedy, melodrama, etc).
4. Types and techniques of analysis.

Techniques:

1. Lectures, discussion audio-visual illustrations.
2. Seminar discussions. Students will be presented with a topic well in advance and will be expected to be prepared to contribute intelligently to the discussion. Because this is an oral project with grading based on participation (quality and quantity), absences will result in a failing grade for that seminar.
3. Reading and writing analyses of assigned plays.
4. Attendance at, and written review of, performed plays.

OVER →

Evaluation:

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| • SEMINAR PARTICIPATION/projects | 30% |
| • THEATRE REVIEW | 10% |
| • STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS PAPER | 30% |
| • FINAL TAKE HOME RESEARCH | 30% |
- Requires a trip to Edmonton.
Attendance at Professional production mandatory.

Students are expected to read the assigned plays BEFORE the classes in which they will be discussed. As preparation for the class (and as a study resource) it is suggested that students keep notes on their reading. The following areas would be worthwhile:

1. What is the subject matter of the play?
2. What seems to be the motivations of the central characters?
3. How would the play appeal to contemporary audiences?
4. Is there anything unusual about the structure of the play?
5. How does the subject matter lead to ideas and themes in the play?

DRAMA 1020 emphasizes the study of drama as practical art rather than literature; plays are studied in the context of production. Occasional minor assignments may be required in preparation for seminar discussions. A few visual projects, it is the strength of imagination and concept rather than technical presentation skills that are of interests.