

TH326-30 Dramaturgy

20/21

Department

SCAPVC - Theatre and Performance Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Susan Haedicke

Credit value

30

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

TH326-30 Dramaturgy

Module aims

This practice-based module contributes to the overall course aims by providing students with a firm grounding in play analysis and practical skills in dramaturgy. It does this by offering students a hands-on approach to explore and practice dramaturgical strategies and techniques in written form and in other theatrical languages (images, music, installations, discovery boxes, etc.). The module emphasizes various possible interpretations and page-to-stage approaches.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Dramaturgy is a practice-based module that uses a hands-on approach to understanding the dramaturgical process. Students will interrogate the connection between the script (in the broadest sense of the term) and the live performance(s) and will explore different methods of performance analysis of both written plays and non-text-based performance forms that result in various possible interpretations and page-to-stage approaches. Students will work on various dramaturgical techniques in and out of class. These exercises will receive oral feedback in class. They are structured to be preparation for the practice-based assessment and final project.

Autumn:

Week 1 Introduction: What is Dramaturgy?

Weeks 2-5 Strategies of play analysis: understanding special world of the play and designing the research process for the necessary background research, including formative assessments

Week 6 Reading Week

Weeks 7-8 Strategies of play analysis: dramatic structure, including formative assessments

Weeks 9-10 Strategies of play analysis: Character and language, including formative assessments

Spring:

Weeks 1-2 Strategies of play analysis: Themes, including formative assessments

Weeks 3-5 Creating a Programme

Week 6 Reading Week

Weeks 7-10 Creating a Study Guide

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of dramatic structure, character development, theme, and style
- Use dramaturgical tools of performance analysis and creative research
- Conduct background research (written and visual) on the world of the play or performance text, themes, etc
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the dramaturg in the contemporary theatre
- Work collaboratively on dramaturgical tasks, i.e. study guides, programmes, dramaturgy protocols
- If in their third-year, students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of analysis, a greater ability to design a research plan and to apply research to the dramaturgical process, and a facility in leading collaborative work and peer review evaluations of formative assessments

Indicative reading list

Ball, David (1998) *Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*. Southern Illinois University Press.

Beckerman, Bernard (1970) *Dynamics of Drama: Theory and Method of Analysis*. Drama Book Specialists.

Cardulla, Bert, ed. (1995) *What is Dramaturgy?* Peter Lang Publishing.

Hayman, Ronald (2000) *How to Read a Play*. Avalon Travel Publishing.

Hornby, Richard (1977) *Script into Performance*. Applause.

Jonas, Susan, Geoff Proehl, and Michael Lupu (1997) *Dramaturgy in American Theater: A Source Book*. Harcourt Brace.

Luckhurst, Mary (2006) *Dramaturgy: A Revolution in Theatre*. Cambridge UP.

Londré, Felicia Hardison (2005) *Words at Play: Creative Writing and Dramaturgy*. Southern Illinois University Press.

Pavis, Patrice (2003) *Analyzing Performance: Theatre, Dance, and Film*. University of Michigan Press.

Rudakoff, Judith and Lynn Thompson (2002) *Between the Lines: The Process of Dramaturgy*. Playwrights Canada Press.

Turner, Cathy and Synne K. Behrndt (2008) *Dramaturgy and Performance*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Articles from "Dramaturgy Special Issue," *Theatre Topics* 13.1 (March 2003). Available Online through Project Muse.

Articles from "On Dramaturgy," *Performance Research* 14.3 (2009). Available online through Taylor and Francis Social Science and Humanities Library.

Articles from "New Dramaturgies," *Contemporary Theatre Review* 20.2 (May 2010). Available online through Taylor and Francis Social Science and Humanities Library.

In addition, the readings will include plays for the basis of the practical projects. The plays will be chosen later.

Subject specific skills

The delivery of the module consist of weekly class seminars in which the students discuss the readings, work on practical projects as a way to achieve a deeper understanding of the material, and engage in peer review critiques. Students will be given weekly readings of texts, including plays, critical analyses, statements by professional dramaturgs, discussions/analyses of issues particular to dramaturgy, etc. to supplement their understanding of dramaturgy. Students will also work on practical dramaturgical non-assessed projects in and outside of class. These projects will receive oral feedback form the tutor and student peers in class. So students practice the actual dramaturgical techniques as well as learn to evaluate the work of their peers. Third year students are expected to play a leading role in peer evaluation and collaborative work.

Transferable skills

The projects, both formative and the summative assessments (Practice-based assessment and Final Project) are designed to enable students to experiment with and demonstrate competence in accomplishing various dramaturgical tasks.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (78%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (9%)
Project supervision	6 sessions of 1 hour (13%)
Total	46 hours

Private study description

Private study 254 hours

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time
Practice-based assessment	40%	
Programme essay with illustrations (2000 words)		
Final Project	60%	
Study Guide (3500 words),		

Feedback on assessment

Oral feedback before the assessment is due; written feedback after the assessment has been submitted

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of QW34 English and Theatre Studies
 - Year 3 of QW34 English and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of ULNA-R1WB Undergraduate French and Theatre Studies
- UFRA-R1W4 Undergraduate French with Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of R1W4 French with Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of R1W4 French with Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of R1W4 French with Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of R1W4 French with Theatre Studies
- UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of RW24 German and Theatre Studies

- Year 3 of RW24 German and Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of RW24 German and Theatre Studies
- UHPA-R4W4 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
 - Year 3 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
- Year 3 of ULNA-R3WA Undergraduate Italian and Theatre Studies
- UITA-R3W4 Undergraduate Italian with Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of R3W4 Italian with Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of R3W4 Italian with Theatre Studies
- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
 - Year 2 of LA99 Liberal Arts
 - Year 2 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
 - Year 2 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
 - Year 2 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
 - Year 2 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
 - Year 2 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
 - Year 2 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
 - Year 2 of LA80 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
 - Year 2 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
 - Year 2 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
 - Year 2 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
 - Year 2 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 3 of LA99 Liberal Arts
 - Year 3 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
 - Year 3 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
 - Year 3 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
 - Year 3 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
 - Year 3 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
 - Year 3 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
 - Year 3 of LA80 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
 - Year 3 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
 - Year 3 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
 - Year 3 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
 - Year 3 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies
- UTHA-W421 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 2 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 2 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 3 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 3 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies
- UTHA-W422 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 3 of W422 Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 4 of W422 Theatre and Performance Studies

- UIPA-W4L8 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of W4L8 Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of W4L8 Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-W4L9 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)