



**WRITING SUMMARY – THTR 311 “Dramaturgy”**

**THTR 311 Dramaturgy is proposed for identification as a “W” course. Dramaturgy includes the exploration of the social, historical, and theoretical context of a play, and dramaturgs (or dramaturges) provide these contextual connections for the theatrical production team and the**

**audience. The course will be taught every spring and will be listed as a Theater and a Liberal Studies Elective. Most students in the class will be juniors and seniors; there may also be some sophomores. The students will primarily be Theater and English majors, but they will be drawn from a variety of majors. Class size is limited to 25. The course will count toward a Theater major or minor.**

**There are five basic types of writing that occur in this class:**

- 1. WRITING TO STIMULATE THOUGHT OR TO SUMMARIZE A POINT. This writing includes the work students will perform in dramaturgical exercises—for example, studying a**

**speech in one of Shakespeare’s plays and analyzing difficult words, among references**

that process to create a clear and well-argued review. The reviews will constitute 20% of the student's grade and will each be graded on a scale from 0 to 10



II

**SYLLABUS**

**THTR 311 Dramaturgy**

**3 credits**

**3 lecture hours, 0 lab hours**

**Introduction to the study and profession of dramaturgy. Study of the historical significance of the dramaturg through the reading of early and modern practitioners. Examination of a number**

**Introduction (3 hours):** Introduction to dramaturgy; what dramaturgs do; views from working dramaturgs

**Historical Dramaturgy (3 hours):** Dramaturgy in the past: Elizabethan and Jacobean

**early and modern theater criticism and dramaturgy; Plato, Aristotle, Zeami, Lessing, and others**

**Critical Theory (3 hours):** Dramaturgy and critical theory; overview of feminism; reader-

**Working with theater companies (3 hours): Dramaturgy and the professional theater company:**

**creating dossiers, working with theater artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.), mission statements: rehearsal protocols**

**Connecting with audiences (3 hours): Dramaturgy and audiences; publicity, audience education, program notes, lobby displays (installation dramaturgy)**

**Conclusions and the future (3 hours): Dramaturgy—looking back and looking forward;**

**Attendance/Participation (5%):** exhibiting punctuality and reliability in terms of regular class attendance and being available as part of ongoing group projects.

### **Grading Scale**

A 100-90% • B 89-80% • C 79-70% • D 69-60% • E 59-0%

### **Attendance Policy**

The attendance policy will adhere to the university attendance policy found in the undergraduate catalog.

### **Required books and readings:**

#### **Required:**

Buchner, *Woyzeck* (any translation)

Chemers, Michael Mark. *Ghost Light: An Introductory Handbook for Dramaturg*, 2010

Inge, William. *Picnic and Summer Brave*

(or comparable plays to be used at the instructor's discretion)

Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew*

#### **Bibliography:**

Brockett, Oscar G. and Franklin J. Hildy, *History of the Theater*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Boston: Pearson, 2008

Brown, L. I., *The Art of Active Dramaturgy*, Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2010

~~Cardullo, P. *What is Dramaturgy?* New York: Routledge, 2008~~



III

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Assignment: Production Review**

**You will create a detailed review (750-1,000 words each) of the two Theater-by-the-Grove productions this semester.**

**In these reviews, you will analyze and evaluate the major aspects of the production: performance, direction, writing (including songs if applicable), and costume and design elements. As in most reviews, your opinion will predominate your writing, but it will be important to back up your opinions with specific reasons and examples that lead you to your opinion.**

**You will be asked to further discuss with the instructor your opinion. Think about the choices that**

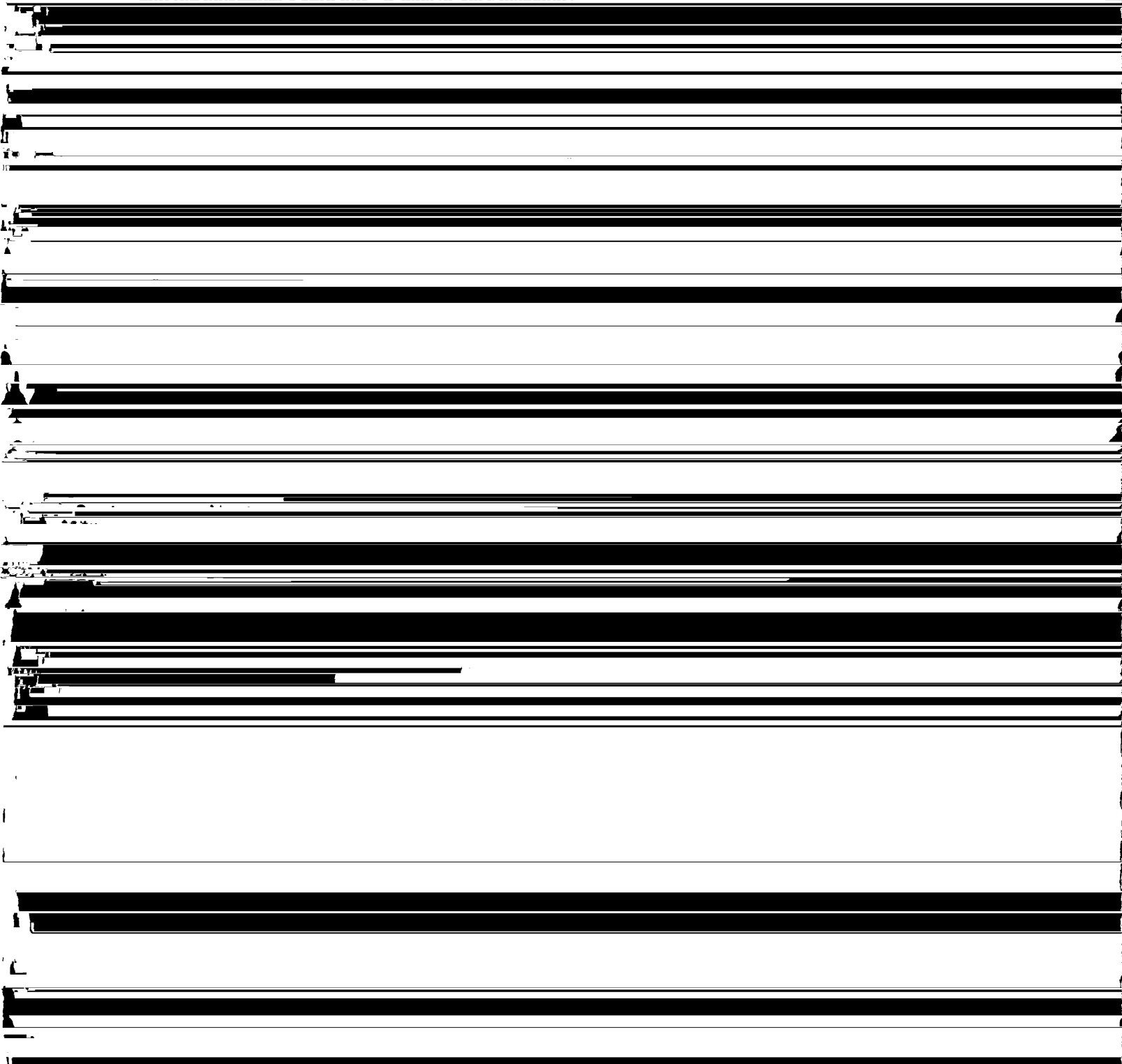
**Also included in the production have made in terms of performance, adaptation, costume, etc.**

**Assignment: Sample Dramaturgical Exercise**

**Play: The Taming of the Shrew**

**Element in Question: The Induction featuring Christopher Sly**

**In one or two paragraphs, discuss the presence of the introductory scene featuring Sly, the innkeeper, and the innkeeper's servants, as well as Sly's dialogue after the opening scene of "Shrew." Make a case**



**Assignment: Final Project—the Dramaturgical Casebook**

**You will create a casebook for a hypothetical production of a play that I will approve. Your casebook MUST include the following documents:**

**An actor's packet:** although it's referred to as an "actor's packet," these notes will also help the director and designers get a sense of the world of the play and its place in history, as well as give

**Program notes:** a brief introduction to the play that will give the audience an idea of what to

Statement of Departmental Responsibility

*[Handwritten signature]*

(Please note, this course was developed and will be maintained by the Department of Theater and

*[Faded handwritten text]*