COURSE OBJECTIVE: To equip students with skills necessary for reading and understand the action of a script for making good choices in play production as playwrights, directors, actors, and designers.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
“The Women”, Clare Boothe Luce
“The Browning Version”, Terence Rattigan
“Theatre”, David Mamet

January
22 - Course Introduction, “Theatre” by David Mamet Assigned
24 – Micro Analysis: Child Play Model
29 - Relationship, Location, Preparation
31 – Stakes & Obstacle

February
5 – Directing & Discussion: “Theatre” Reading Assignment Due.
7 – Practice Assignment: “The Browning Version”, Millie/Frank Scene (pg. 9-13) Micro application
12 - Review: relationship, location, preparation
14 - Review: stakes/obstacles
19 - ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE: “The Women” Act I, sc. 4, pg. 34-36.
21 – Assignment Review
26 – Macro Analysis: Voice of Experience
28 –Two Models: Roller Coaster/Journey

March
5 - Practice Assignment: “The Women” Macro application
7 - Review
12 – ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE: “The Browning Version” Macro application
14 – NO CLASS: H. S. Festival
19 - Review
21 – What is Character? Manufactured vs. Revealed
20 - Status Exercise
26 – SPRING BREAK
28 – SPRING BREAK

April
2 – Status Exercise
4 – Choosing Character – Primary Objective/Beat Intentions
9 – Choosing Character - Review
11 – Practice Assignment: “The Browning Version” Micro & Macro application
16 – ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE: “The Women” Micro & Macro
18 – Review
23 – Creating Visual World - Macro Scale: Unifying Image
30 - Practice Assignment: “The Women” Micro & Macro application
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

1. Each student begins the course with 100 pts. There are four written assignments for the course (detailed below), and an expectation of daily participation, each of these worth 20 pts.

2. Points can not be earned, they can only be lost, as follows:

3. All assignments MUST be typed and follow the appropriate format for each exercise, as detailed below. Handwritten and missing elements will be docked ½ letter grade.

4. The goal for each assignment is to illuminate the text with concise "filament" statements. Run-on or multiple statements will be docked 1/2 letter grade.

5. Your analysis need not be creative nor clever, however it must be workable. Each choice that is not workable it will be docked ½ letter grade.

6. Assignments will be presented and discussed in class. Assignments not presented will be ineligible for full credit. Partial credit will be at the discretion of instructor.

7. Attendance – You MUST ATTEND EVERY CLASS. Two absence will be tolerated, without penalty. Lose five pts. per absence thereafter. NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED, PLEASE DO NOT OFFER ANY. Six absences constitute course failure in accordance with departmental attendance policy.

ASSIGNMENT #1 - PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR: MICRO-ANALYSIS OF "THE WOMEN", ACT I, Scene 4, pgs. 34-36. – MOMENT TO MOMENT

On a single sheet of paper identify: 1.) Relationship, 2.) Setting, 3.) Preparation for both characters (Crystal/Mary). Each choice should be stated in no more than a few words each.

Xerox the assigned text and indicate, with a line drawn horizontally - margin to margin - marking boundaries between individual moments of action. Label the boundaries between moments with either an "S" (stake change) or "O" (obstacle change), and assign a single sentence statement for the body of each moment identifying “who has the ball, and if they scored, or not.”

ASSIGNMENT #2 - PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR: MACRO-ANALYSIS OF "THE BROWNING VERSION" – A CREATED EXPERIENCE

On a single sheet of paper outline the 3 Act structure of the play by identifying the following elements of the plot: 1.) Artifice, [“it would appear…”] 2.) Inciting Incident [dramatic question raised], identify page number 3.) Complicating Incidents [list three] identify page numbers, 4.) Crisis Incident [dramatic question answered] identify page number, 5.) Resolution: Loss and Gain.

ASSIGNMENT #3 - ACTOR: CHARACTER ANALYSIS IN "WOMEN"

Macro Analysis: Choose a workable Primary Objective for your assigned role (XYZ).
Micro Analysis: Choose beat objectives for the assigned scene by writing "what the character wants to do to/get from the other character" for each moment, along with the Xerox copy from Assignment #2, showing your analysis of moments.

ASSIGNMENT #4 - DESIGNER: VISUAL WORLD OF “THE BROWNING VERSION”

Macro Analysis: Choose a workable Unifying Image for the play. Be sure that the image is a single visual image (not behavioral) and conflicted in a way that is analogous to the conflict of the play. Describe in a single paragraph how the central conflict is embodied in the image, by identifying the central conflict of the play and its visual analogy in the Unifying Image.

Micro Analysis: Identify Visual Clues from the first three moments of the assigned scene (Scene Three). Describe in single sentences how each clue raises stakes in the “location” of the given moment.
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January
- 23 - Course Introduction, “Theatre” by David Mamet Assigned
- 28 – Micro Analysis: Child Play Model
- 30 - Relationship, Location, Preparation

February
- 4 – Stakes & Obstacles
- 6 – Directing & Discussion: “Theatre” Reading Assignment Due.
- 11 – Practice Assignment: “The Browning Version”, Millie/Frank Scene (pg. 9-13) Micro application
- 13 - Review: relationship, location, preparation
- 18 – NO CLASS
- 20 - Review: stakes/obstacles
- 27 – Assignment Review

March
- 4 – Macro Analysis: Voice of Experience
- 6 – Two Models: Roller Coaster/Journey
- 11 - Practice Assignment: “The Women” Macro application
- 13 - Review
- 18 – ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE: “The Browning Version” Macro application
- 20 – Review
- 25 – SPRING BREAK
- 28 – SPRING BREAK

April
- 1 - What is Character? Manufactured vs. Revealed
- 3 – Status Exercise
- 8 - Status Exercise
- 10 – Choosing Character – Primary Objective/Beat Intentions
- 15 – Choosing Character - Review
- 17 – Practice Assignment: “The Browning Version” Micro & Macro application
- 22 – ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE: “The Women” Micro & Macro
- 24 – Review
- 29 – Creating Visual World - Macro Scale: Unifying Image

May
- 1 – Creating Visual World - Micro Scale: Visual Clues
- 6 - Practice Assignment: “The Women” Micro & Macro application
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