

**COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**

THEA 333-01 Introduction to Dramaturgy

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from

Edwards Humanities & Fine Arts Room

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Office Hours: Kimbel 217 10:00-Noon

"Dramaturgs are alchemical catalysts, revealing artistic possibilities through collaboration with playwrights and directors, and through directors to designers and performers. Dramaturgs demystify the world of the play, defend the text of the play, and point out potential obstacles in the path to the finest production of the play possible, allowing theatre collaborators to solve their own problems by providing support, encouragement, and above all else, knowledge - the tools needed to make informed choices and theatre magic." - Kevin D. Ferguson

Course Description:

An exploration of the art, craft, and study of dramaturgy. The question 'What is a dramaturg?' will be answered. Who dramaturgs are, how dramaturgs work, and what dramaturgs do will be examined. Learning to think like a dramaturg means learning how to ask questions, when to ask questions - and learning what kind of questions to ask. In this course dramaturgical questions will be asked and answered.

Text(s):

Irelan, Scott R., Anne Fletcher, and Julie Felise Dubiner. *The Process of Dramaturgy: a Handbook*. Newburyport, MA: Focus/R. Pullins, 2010. Print.

Various handouts.

Course Objectives

- A) To deepen understanding of the field of dramaturgy
- B) To engage students in the practice of production dramaturgy
- C) To broaden the student's awareness and knowledge of classical and current dramaturgs
- D) To deepen student understanding of the role of the dramaturg in the production of new theatrical works

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student who successfully completes this course will:

- A) Be able to define dramaturgy and the role of the dramaturg in the theatre
- B) Demonstrate the skills of a production dramaturg and apply those skills in a theatrical collaboration
- C) Analyze a new theatrical work and collaborate with the creator of that work as a dramaturg
- D) Be familiar with the contribution of both classical and current dramaturgs on theatre

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Attendance *and* participation, including preparedness to participate in class discussion. (20%)
2. Three (3) Major Projects (20% each)
3. Midterm Exam (10%)
4. Final Exam (10%)

Projects: (Must be presented on assigned date.)

- 1) A presentation on a well-known dramaturg who worked with/does work with new plays. Presentations will be rigorously researched, well-organized, and concise. Each will include a brief biography, especially as it relates to education, training, and theatre work. Discuss who the dramaturg is, where he or she has worked, how he or she has worked, and what his or her ideas are about dramaturgy. A detailed bibliography is required. Additional details will be discussed in class.
- 2) A production dramaturgy casebook, assigned by instructor from a selection of plays in the current Coastal Carolina University Theatre season or chosen by the student with instructor approval. The criteria for the casebook will be discussed thoroughly in class.
- 3) A journal chronicling your dramaturgical work with a playwright crafting an original play paired with the student by the instructor. The criteria for the journal will be discussed thoroughly in class.

• Grading Scale:

A:	90-100
B+:	88-89
B:	80-87
C+:	78-79
C:	70-77
D+:	68-69
D:	60-67
F:	0-59

Course Policies:

1. Both attendance *and* participation are required. Roll will be taken at every class. A maximum of three unexcused absences is allowed for the class. Coming late and/or leaving early will be recorded and result in deductions. Three episodes of late arrivals/early departures will count as an absence. **Unexcused absences beyond the allotted amount will reduce the class participation portion of your final grade.** Missing more than 25% of the class will result in an automatic failure for the class in adherence with university policy. (More than 10 absences- excused and/or unexcused- for MWF classes.)
2. Late work will result in HUGE (minimum of one letter grade) penalties.
3. Turn off cell phones and other devices before class. Do not text or surf the web during class.
4. Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for his or her own actions and reporting the inappropriate actions of others and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.
5. The guidelines in the *Code of Student Conduct* will be upheld in this course. According to the Code of Student Conduct, Prohibited Conduct includes:
 - Plagiarism, cheating and all forms of academic dishonesty
 - Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or University office
 - Forgery, alteration or misuse of any University document or record
 - Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, academic discipline proceedings, or other activities when the behavior disrupts the environment and violates the standard of fair access to the academic experience
6. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be severely penalized, resulting in a failing grade for the class.
7. The appropriate dean will be notified of academic misconduct and complaints handled according to university policy.

Reasonable Accommodation:

Any student who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made to ensure full participation and to facilitate the educational opportunity presented.

Course Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignments, Exams, Lectures</u>
Class 1	Orientation/Syllabus
Class 2	Elinor Fuchs' <i>Visit to a Small Planet</i>
Class 3	Introduction
Class 4	Laying the Groundwork
Class 5	Opening a Dialogue
Class 6	Conceptual Framework
Class 7	An Eye for Continuity
Class 8	The New Play

Class 9	In Production
Class 10	Outreach and Education
Class 11	Closing Thoughts
Class 12	Project Assignments: Production Dramaturg Casebook Assignment/ Dramaturg Project Presentation Assignment (Mark Bly, Art Borreca, Brecht, Anne Cattaneo, Michael Bigelow Dixon, Liz Engleman, Oskar Eustis, Heather Helinsky, Mead Hunter, Morgan Jenness, Lessing, Joy Meads, Lynn M. Thomson)/Playwright Pairing for New Play Journal Assignment
Class 13	Midterm Exam
Class 14	Lynn M. Thomson's <i>Teaching and Rehearsing Collaboration</i>
Class 15	Joel Schechter's <i>Lessing, Jugglers And Dramaturgs</i>
Class 16	Joel Schechter's <i>Brecht and Other Dramaturgs</i>
Class 17	Mary Luckhurst's <i>Revolutionising theatre: Brecht's reinvention of the dramaturg</i>
Class 18	Michael Bigelow Dixon's <i>The Dramaturgical Dialogue: New Play Dramaturgy at Actors Theatre of Louisville</i>
Class 19	Anne Bogart's <i>Magnetism</i>
Class 20	<i>Dramaturgs in America: Eleven Statements</i>
Class 21	Mark Bly's <i>American Production Dramaturgs: An Introduction</i>
Class 22	Mark Bly's <i>Dramaturgy at the Eureka: An Interview with Oskar Eustis</i>
Class 23	David Moore, Jr.'s <i>Dramaturgy at the Guthrie: An Interview with Mark Bly</i>
Class 24	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 25	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 26	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 27	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 28	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 29	Production Dramaturgy Casebook Presentations
Class 30	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 31	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 32	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 33	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 34	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 35	Dramaturg Project Presentations
Class 36	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 37	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 38	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 39	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 40	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 41	New Play Journal Presentations & Discussion of Process
Class 42	Review Day Final Exam