



New England College

TH 2440 Production Analysis: Language and Discourse: How a Resistance can be a Production

Fall 2017

MWF 10:20 – 11:30

Alex Picard / Glenn Stuart

Email Address: spicard@nec.edu, gstuart@nec.edu

Phone Number: 428-2402, 428-2454

Office Hours and Location:

Alex Picard: MW 1-3 and by appointment in SB 115 B2

Glenn Stuart: TTR 9:30 am-12:00 pm and by appointment in SB 115B

Course Description:

The intention of this course is to provide students with a richer understanding of the process of theatrical production from conception to execution and analysis. This course focuses on our original fall production. Through readings, discussions, lecture and exercises students will examine the text of the play, the poems it contains, and its structure. We will also examine the historical, theoretical and social context surrounding the text. Emphasis will be on creating connections between the production and evening rehearsals and the textual and historical material. Most importantly this class will reflect our theatrical connection to the civic and political world and our involvement in it.

Classes will be comprised of lectures, demonstrations, and a great deal of in-class participation. Because the course is much in-class participation, attendance is crucial. Be prepared to draw on previous theatre courses.

Required Materials and Textbook(s):

Articles and readings will be provided.

Our daily working text will be the production script.

Optional or Supplemental Materials:

Attendance at *Taming of the Shrew* is required.

Objectives of the course:

- a) Apply the basic analytical, physical, and vocal techniques utilized in the process of acting.
- b) Apply the basic analytical, staging, blocking, organizational and communication techniques utilized in the process of directing.
- c) Write creatively and critically for the theatre.
- d) Analyze, interpret, and evaluate their own and others' work in the theatre.
- e) Apply the collaborative and creative process through which a script is transformed into a theatrical production.

Attendance Policy:

You will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences. Each successive absence will result in your final grade being reduced by one-half of a letter grade. For example, if your final grade was a 'B' but you missed five classes, it would be reduced to a 'C.' It is the tradition of NEC, to allow athletes to miss a class for an intercollegiate game, and only a game. Student athletes are not to miss class for a practice.

Grading Policy and Percentages:

Final grades will be based upon the following:

Text Checks – 40% - We will administer ten (10) text-checks during the course of the semester. Text checks will consist of one to three very specific text-centered questions that will ensure you are reading assigned texts in a close and careful fashion. They will also include reactions to the order and selection of pieces for the production. **Each will be worth 10 points maximum for a total accumulated value of 50 points**

Video Checks – 40% - We will administer eight (8) video-checks during the course of the semester. Video checks will consist of one to three very specific questions that you will answer during class as you watch a particular video or video. Each will be worth **10 points maximum for a total accumulated value of 50 points.**

Preparation and Participation – 20% - This includes preparation for any additional assignments or projects and participation in discussions and decisions. **Total participation and preparation is worth 60 points.**

Grading Scale:

A	160-150
---	---------

A-	149-144
B+	143-140
B	139-136
B-	135-128
C+	127-123
C	122-118
C-	117-112
D	111-96
F	95 and below

Assignments

In class work/performances

Tied to both the fall production and other plays, there will be script exercises as well as performance exercises to enhance work done in rehearsals.

Preparation

This is an upper level class and the expectation is that you will be prepared at all times. If you come to class unprepared, you better be ready to be a huge cheerleader for your classmates and their prepared work. Being unprepared is not a ticket to leave class – your feedback is important.

Participation

This work takes discipline, determination and dedication as well as the ability to be critical of our work without being critical of each other. Feedback is critical to this process – be honest with what you see and hear and feel and know that each critique you receive in this class is due to a desire to see you be successful. Having said that – be OPEN to everything – new techniques (even those that are challenging or make you want to have your eyes out with an oyster fork) new work, new experiences. This is YOUR class. Let's make the most of it.

Shared Teaching Commitments: NEC's approach to teaching and learning:

- 1. A commitment to natural and civic environments.** The NEC community and curriculum promotes engaged and experiential interaction with our rich natural and civic environments.

The New England College Theatre Department is fearlessly committed to the examination of the human condition. We take a moral and ethical stand to change our world one audience at a time through works that are emotionally

compelling, intellectually provocative and aesthetically engaging. We tell the stories absolutely need to be heard and take the risks that lead us and our audience to the common good.

2. A commitment to engaged and experiential teaching principles and practices.

NEC commits itself to a set of Pedagogical Principles and Practices that characterizes our students' educational experience.

NEC Pedagogical Principles:

- Classroom experiences are connected to the real world
- Courses include physical, hands-on exercises
- Faculty use alternative modes of teaching and learning
- Courses include outside-of-classroom experiences
- Programs include Community Placements or other Experiential Learning

activities

- Students' questions drive instruction and relevance

NEC Pedagogical Practices:

- Problem-based Learning
- Service Learning
- Place-Based Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Collaborative Learning

All courses in the New England College Theatre curriculum find their basis in the above mission statement. Theatre is, by its very nature, collaborative. Theatre artists must be aware of a multiplicity of perspectives; social, political, religious, scientific, aesthetic and philosophical. Truly theatre is the most liberal of the liberal arts – theatre artist are indeed liberal artists.

3. A commitment to the 21st Century Essential Learning outcomes.

A New England College education is grounded in particular 21st century outcomes as articulated by the LEAP Campaign promoted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. These outcomes promote critical thinking skills which are essential for educated members of our society.

Blackboard

Blackboard will be used in this class for the following:

- Syllabus will be posted on Blackboard

- All assignments – essays etc... will be posted
- Any changes in syllabus or in class schedule will be posted

Academic Accommodations:

If you have an Accommodation Plan Letter from the Disability Services Offices (DSO), please contact your professor as soon as possible to provide them with the letter and set up accommodations for the class. You and your professor will then discuss how to implement the accommodations and address accessibility for the course. This can be done via email with guidance from the DSO if needed.

Accommodations are designed to provide equal access to the learning environment and instructional materials and do not alter the fundamental and technical requirements of the course. Accommodations are not retroactive prior to notice and the letters need to be delivered in time for faculty to make accommodation arrangements. Note that faculty members are under no obligation to make accommodations for students who do not disclose or notify faculty of a specific accommodation. In situations where several people are involved in developing accommodations, three weeks prior notice will be required. The DSO is available to consult with students and faculty regarding accommodations, access, or other concerns related to disability.

If a student has concerns about access or may have needs related to a disability and has not worked with the DSO, the first step is to contact the DSO for an initial confidential consultation and assessment. The DSO can be reached at 603-428-2302 or via email disabilityservices@nec.edu

For more information on class accommodations, please refer to information on the NEC website at www.nec.edu/disability

Academic Honor Principle

We as a community at New England College embrace and academic honors principle; this principle consists of honesty, trust and integrity.

Honesty is being true to oneself and others, engendering a culture of trust.

Trust builds mutual respect, fostering a disposition of responsibility and civility.

Integrity denotes inner strength of character: doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

As members of the NEC Community, we accept these values as fundamental guides to our actions, decisions and behavior. Please see the Academic Catalog for further detail on procedures and sanctions in minor and major cases of academic dishonesty.

Statement on Fair Practices

New England College prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, pregnancy,

veteran's status, or disability in regard to treatment, access to, or employment in its programs and activities, in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the ADA compliance officer.

Statement of on Email Policy

New England College uses NEC email as a means of official communication with students. As these communications may be time sensitive, the college expects that students check their NEC email at least once per day. For more information on this policy, please consult the NEC catalog.

Credit Hours and Course Work

Regardless of the format (in-class, online, or hybrid) or the time period in which the course is offered, (e.g. fifteen or seven weeks) the student work expectation for all courses is the same. One credit represents 45 hours of work over the course of a semester (including lectures, laboratories, recitations, discussion groups, field work, study, etc.), averaged over each week during the term, in order to complete the work of the course. So, for a four credit course, the expectation is that there is 180 hours of work.

Course Outline and Course Schedule:

While the instructor will make every effort to adhere to the course outline and timeline, changes are inevitable. Students should make sure that they are fully aware of the expectations for each class as adjustments will happen throughout the semester.

Week One

Introduction to the course/Expectations/How do we get from page to stage?

View/Discuss God Has Pity

Outline intention of fall show timeline/story/journey

The text/story/characters

Text Check #1

Week Two

Highlight poets – YouTube sensations and poet laureates **Video Check #1**

Week Three

View and discuss - film choice

Video Check #2 and Text Check #2

Open Door Theatre Presents –*Taming of the Shrew*– Sept 15-16, at 7:00 – Sept 18 at 2:30pm

Week Four

Design and Style – developing the world of the play

Text Check #3

Week Five

Putting it together - making sure it all works – Focus: Structure
Video Check #3 and Text Check #4

Week Six

Putting it together – making sure it all works – Focus: Order and intention
Video Check #4 and #5

Week Seven

Putting it together – making sure it all works – Focus: Audience
Take away – Community impact
Video Check #6 and Text Check #5

Mid-term Break – October 14-17

Week Eight

Application of research to the text/character work
Video Check #7 and Text Check #6 and #7 (Character analysis)

Week Nine

Application of research to the text/character work
Video Check #8 and Text Check #8

Week Ten

Music selections – placement and payoff

Week Eleven

In the space - Focus: Working through last minute changes and reviewing materials – Preparation for Tech

Week Twelve

In the space - Focus: Working in the theatre for dress/tech

NEC theatre presents – *Allowables* – November 9, 10, 11 – 7:30pm and November 12, 3:00 pm.

Week Thirteen

Post mortem – fall production

Thanksgiving Break – November 25 – 30

Week Fourteen

Waiting for Lefty – Read/discuss – Focus: How do we continue civic engagement through the rest of the season and our work as a department?
Text Check #9

Week Fifteen

The Federal Theatre Project, The Group Theatre Company, and *The Cradle Will Rock*. **Text Check #10**