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Fall 9-1-2022

THTR 532.01: Graduate Seminar in Dramaturgy

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Recommended Citation

Legg, Michael T. and Sweeney, Bernadette, "THTR 532.01: Graduate Seminar in Dramaturgy" (2022).

University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025. 402.

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THTR 532.01 DRAMATURGY 3 Credits Spring 2020

Tuesday and Thursday 12.30-1.50 Media Arts 227/8

Dr. Bernadette Sweeney

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12, Fridays 11-12

Michael Legg

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Students will study the role of the dramaturg across a range of plays and productions. Students will engage in production dramaturgy, prepare and present a final dramaturgical research protocol/study guide, and engage in discussion in class and with guest directors/dramaturgs.

Course Outcomes:

On completion of this course students will:

Have a broad knowledge of dramaturgy and its role in the professional theatre.

Have undertaken the work of the dramaturg for two independent research projects – deadlines to be determined in consultation with instructors.

Have a critically informed understanding of the relationship between the dramaturg and the text

Have an understanding of how a dramaturg balances research with the practical demands of performance

Have undertaken script analysis, scene study, research and analysis

Have articulated their engagement with the role of dramaturg through formal graduate-level research and writing

Have presented their research in class.

Required Texts:

The Process of Dramaturgy: A Handbook by Scott R. Irelan, Anne Fletcher, and Julie Felise Dubiner.

Materials including a selection of plays on Moodle

Accessible copies of proposed scripts for final presentations not already available must be made available to the class via moodle or the um box storage system.

Work for Assessment:

40% -- attendance and in-class contribution, participation, effort, attitude, and respect,

20% --Presentation/dramaturgical research project #1

40% --Presentation/dramaturgical research project #1

All sources should be fully referenced. **Plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and may result in course failure.**

Work will be graded on:

Relevance to the topic

Evidence of original research

Originality and creativity,

Thorough response to the material

Levels of analysis and critique
Writing: syntax, structure of argument, coherency,
Formatting, style and presentation, management of the task [submitted on time and in full etc.]

Ground Rules:

We cannot accept late papers unless the student contacts us with a reasonable reason before the beginning of the class on the day the paper is due.

Attendance is required - each unexcused absence will result in your grade falling by a third of a letter grade. Continued absence will result in course failure. It is your responsibility to keep up with your attendance. If you are encountering any health or related issues that affect your attendance, please contact Michael Legg or Bernadette Sweeney about this as soon as possible.

Please feel free to ask and answer questions inside and outside class. If you have any questions about how you are doing, what you want to research or any of the material, contact me by e-mail, or arrange to see me during office hours.

DRAMATURGY Fall 2022 *Syllabus*: (always subject to change)¹

Week 1: Introduction to the work of the dramaturg, **Work in Production in residence at the Montana Rep** *Jeanette Rankin Musical – We Won't Sleep* script analysis

Week 2: **Production in residence at the Montana Rep** *Jeanette Rankin Musical– We Won't Sleep* script analysis and observation of process

Week 3: **Work in Production at the Montana Rep** *Plays on Tap: Buckle Up* – script analysis, compare first and latest version

Week 4: *The Plays and The Process*. Also continue discussion of ***Buckle Up*** – compare first and latest version

Week 5: Dramaturgy at work – analyze select websites and archives

Week 6: On adaptation – versions of ***Peer Gynt***

Week 7: Skype meetings with professional dramaturg[s]

Week 8: On adaptation – versions of ***Twelfth Night***

Week 9: Concepts of design and production & consideration of the work in rehearsal.

Week 10: **Work in Production at the Montana Rep** *Hearth* in development

Week 11: Skype meetings with professional dramaturg[s]. Types of dramaturgy. Discuss research project ideas.

Week 12: NOV 16-19 Ian Frank Visit, ***Call of the Wild***

Week 13-15: RESEARCH DRAMATURGY DRAFTS AND FINAL PRESENTATIONS

COURSE POLICIES

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE:

- **Handbook Practices & Procedures:** All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student

¹ Please refer to the current schedule for relevant dates with regard to adding, dropping, and withdrawing. Please make contact with a colleague or two to find out what has been assigned if you miss class.

Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <https://www.umt.edu/theatre-dance/archives/documents/20-21-handbook.pdf>.

- **Class Etiquette:** Please limit your **eating or drinking** during the class. Please let me know in writing if you need a medical exception to this policy. **Liquids in a capped container** are acceptable. Absolutely **no weapons**, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. When class has ended, please return space to its original condition (in other words, **clean up** after yourselves). Lastly, **electronic devices are to be stowed away** during class unless permission has been given to access them. It is crucial to the success of the course that you stay directly engaged during class. Please check with me if you feel you need an exception to this rule. Further, you may use your laptops and devices for all in-class assignments or project work, so bring them to class.
- **Guests:** Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without the instructor's consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing are not permitted during class. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class. There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Please stay in communication with your faculty advisor and know that we are here to help. You can call in anytime to our office hours (posted on office doors) or email us to set up an appointment. All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the [School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook](#).

Wellness Statement

The School of Theatre & Dance recognizes that theatre and performance content and processes can provoke; therefore, during the course of a class or rehearsal, students can choose to remove themselves from activities should they feel a threat to their well-being. Please communicate with your instructor and/or stage manager as soon as you can, prior to or after leaving.

Personal considerations such as health, wellness and/or other issues can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the health portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact: the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741. For University of Montana financial aid: phone: (406) 243-5373 or email faid@mso.umt.edu

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. Students registered with [Office For Disability Equity](#) (ODE) may request reasonable accessibility modifications by contacting me directly.