



THE 4954 Theatre Exit Critique

NOTE:

*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.
A new syllabus will be issued by the Instructor should major changes occur.*

UCF Catalog Course Description

Theatre Major, Senior Standing. Completion of departmental exit critique. Graded S/U. Only offered Fall and Spring.

Course Objectives/Goals

- To strengthen quality writing skills
- To strengthen analytical assessment skills of theatre production
- To integrate techniques of script analysis into clear, mature written expression
- To reinforce the use of discipline-specific vocabulary
- To develop a full understanding of MLA formatting

Methodology/Assessment

Students are required to see a theatrical production during the semester at UCF, The Orlando Repertory Theatre, or the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre and submit a final exit critique. Students must receive a “passing” or “outstanding” rating in all of the following areas:

- Evidence of Research
- Analysis of Aesthetics
- Clarity/Maturity of Expression
- Use of discipline-specific vocabulary
- Mechanics
- Use of MLA formatting

Required Textbooks for This Course

Script from play for which Exit Critique has been submitted

Recommended Textbooks/Web Links for This Course

- *Cite Right: A Quick Guide to Citation Styles--MLA, APA, Chicago, the Sciences, Professions, and More* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) by Charles Lipson
- *Schaum's Quick Guide to Writing Great Research Papers* (Schaums Quick Guide) by Laurie Rozakis
- *Cite It Right: The SourceAid Guide to Citation, Research, and Avoiding Plagiarism* by Julia Johns and Sarah Keller
- <http://www.mla.org/style>
- <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml>

Attendance Policy

It is imperative you attend an entire performance of a UCF Theatre Department production, a show at the Orlando Repertory Theatre, or a show at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. It is generally expected that you will attend a production in the same semester you complete your exit critique. Failure to attend one performance of any show produced by one of these companies will result in you being unable to fulfill your written assignment for the class.

Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on a written “Exit Critique” using a rubric (available for download from department web site www.theatre.ucf.edu) and must receive a “passing” or “outstanding” rating in all of the following areas:

- Evidence of Research
- Analysis of Aesthetics
- Clarity/Maturity of Expression
- Use of discipline-specific vocabulary
- Mechanics
- Use of MLA formatting

Failure to pass the “Exit Critique” writing assignment may delay a student’s expected graduation date. Students who fail any area of the critique assignment will be given a chance to fix the problems with their critique and re-submit for evaluation the next time this class is offered.

Written Assignments

The “Exit Critique” written assignment should be treated as if it was a formal essay being presented in an English composition class!! Written assignments are expected to be presented in the following fashion:

- **TYPED ONLY!!** No handwritten papers will be accepted!!
- Please put your name on every page of your paper. Set up a “header” on your paper to reflect your name and page number of the paper.
- **Double-spaced** with a left and right margin of no more than 1”
- Use 12 point type

You will be required to provide the Professor with three (3) hard copies of your paper by the deadline due date and three (3) hard copies of the grading rubric. You also will be required to submit your paper to Turnitin.com for plagiarism evaluation. The Professor will provide you with the information you will need for completing this step of the paper submission process.

Helpful Hints

Here are some of the most common mistakes made on Exit Critique papers:

1. Lack of proper research resources -- USE THE LIBRARY!! And, don't rely solely on the internet for research...or the notes in the show program. Once you complete your research, make sure you use and CITE YOUR SOURCES!
2. Lack of discussion of script analysis -- faculty graders will be looking specifically at how you analyze the script of the show. Thus, try to read the actual script before you see the show...or spend some time with the script after the show to help you in your analysis discussion.
3. Peer Evaluation -- part of our assessment of your writing is how effectively you evaluate your peers...this includes actors, stage managers, student designers, crew members...any part of the production run by students.
4. Clear writing and communication of ideas -- be clear and succinct in your writing. Avoid slang and informal writing style. Remember -- this should be a FORMAL ESSAY you are presenting to quality for graduation!!
5. Mechanics -- Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Go to the UCF Writing Center and have them work with you on your paper before you turn it in to insure all your commas are in place and your sentence structure is correct.
6. MLA Formatting -- The majority of students who fail to pass the Exit Critique have problems in this area. If you do not know how to write in MLA formatting, find a book or go to the UCF Writing Center for assistance.

**NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE
ACCEPTED PAST THE DUE DATE!!**

“The Golden Rule”

Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in the Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida’s Student Handbook (<http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/>). It includes:

- Cheating whereby non-permissible written, visual or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on examinations, course assignments or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.
- Plagiarism whereby another’s work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student’s own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable.

If you have any questions about the Golden Rule and how it applies to you and your work, please make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Professor.

[Please be aware the Professor utilizes Internet resources to research any paper suspected of being “lifted” or purchased for use in this class. It is easier than you think to discover whether your paper is original or not!! Don’t jeopardize your chances of achieving a good grade in this course simply because you didn’t prepare for any written assignment.]