



Film 283 – 402 : Script Analysis

Autumn Quarter 2022
Wednesdays 1:30pm – 4:45pm
Lewis Center 1515

Instructor: Rachel Bass

Office: CDM 458



Email: rbass3@depaul.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am–12:30pm, by appointment
(Schedule with BlueStar or email me)

Communication: I'll respond to emails within 24 hours.

Course Description

Script Analysis informs a director's creative decision-making. Through a series of practical exercises, students will learn the process of analyzing a script based on the film's narrative elements. In doing so, they will uncover their unique vision for the story that aids in collaboration with cast and crew.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Determine script structure (Inciting Incident, Turning Points, Climax) and Theme
- Examine Life and Scene Needs, Obstacles, and Subtext
- Break down the script from multiple angles
- Document the story's Given Circumstances, Diegesis, and Character Arcs
- Construct Storyboards based on Scene Structure and Beats
- Discover one's personal take on a story within the bounds of the script

Student Learning

How much a student learns is a direct result of their **active** engagement with class material. To maximize learning:

- Complete all required readings and assignments
- Take notes on readings and lectures
- Engage by asking questions
- Reflect on challenging concepts
- Try new processes
- Help fellow classmates
- Set and respect boundaries
- Seek assistance from an outside expert if something is preventing you from doing your best work

The University Counseling & Psychological Services is an excellent, free resource for students: <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/pages/Ucaps.aspx>

Required Materials



1. *Get Out* Script (PDF on D2L under "Readings")
2. "EF's Visit to a Small Planet" (Essay on D2L under "Readings")
3. *and then, you act* by Anne Bogart
4. *How to Read a Play: Script Analysis for Directors* by Damon Kiely

CONTENT WARNING FOR *GET OUT*: Racism, Violence, Blood

In-Class Materials

Bring your hard-copy of *Get Out* to every class. I know it kills trees, but engaging with the text using your own written notes is vital to our class discussions and in-class assignments. I prefer that students not use a screen to reference the script during class discussions, as screens can be a barrier to being fully present in our conversations, and is distracting. If this is new and/or uncomfortable for you, see it as part of engaging a new process for the duration of this class. If this poses an issue, email me.

Bring Kiely book to class, we'll engage Bogart mostly outside of class.

Grading

Grades will be given for each assignment. To get feedback on assignments, they must be turned in on time.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance	10%
Participation/In-Class Exercises	10%
Weekly Discussions (D2L Forum)	20%
Weekly Homework Assignments	60%

A: 100-93, **A-:** 92-90, **B+:** 89-88, **B:** 87-83, **B-:** 82-80, **C+:** 79-78, **C:** 77-73, **C-:** 72-70, **D+:** 69-68, **D:** 67-63, **D-:** 62-60, **F:** 59-0

Important Dates

September 13 th @ 11:59pm	Deadline to add classes
September 20 th @ 11:59pm	Deadline to drop classes without penalty
October 25 th @ 11:59pm	Deadline to withdraw from classes

D2L Discussions and submission folders lock every TUESDAY at 11:59pm

Subscribe to the following on D2L:

FAQ DISCUSSION BOARD – For questions about assignments, D2L, submission folders, logistics

NEWS ITEMS – Updates and new information

CALENDARS – Due Dates

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
9/7

TOPIC: THEME

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Read *Get Out* Screenplay (Script on D2L: Content > Class Readings)
Content Warning: Racism, Violence, Blood
- Read Kiely 34-42 (Start: Digging Into the Script on Your Own, Stop: Moving Past First Impressions)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *The First Read and General Beauty*
D2L > Submissions > First Read and General Beauty

WEEK 2
9/14

TOPIC: THE GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES PART I

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Introduction and Chapter 1: Context
- Kiely 142-147 (The Given Circumstances) **Just Read - Don't do the assignments in this reading, do the "Given Circumstances" assignment on D2L**
- Kiely 72-74 (Building A World from the Given Circumstances)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *The Given Circumstances*
D2L > Submissions > The Given Circumstances

WEEK 3
9/21

TOPIC: THE GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES PART II

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 2: Articulation

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)

WEEK 4
9/28

TOPIC: THE CREATED WORLD (DIEGESIS)

-Check your mid-term grades (Are you on track?)
-Sign up for an office hour visit with me (mandatory, schedule during class)

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- “EF’s Visit to a Small Planet” Essay (PDF on D2L: Content > Class Readings)
- Kiely 147-148 (The World of the Play), 51-53 (Going Beyond the Words on the Page)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *The Created World*
D2L > Submissions > The Created World

WEEK 5

10/5

TOPIC: EVENTS AND STRUCTURE

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 4: Attention
- Kiely 4-8 (Start: Aristotle, Stop: Konstantin Stanislavski), 149-151 (The Moment Chain), 159-161 (Start: Aristotelian Analysis, Stop: Final Gut Check)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Events and Structure*
D2L > Submissions > Events and Structure

WEEK 6

10/12

TOPIC: CHARACTER

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 5: Magnetism
- Kiely 8-15 (Start: Konstantin Stanislavski, Stop: Vsevolod Meyerhold), 152-154 (Start: Character Bones, Stop: Getting Ready for Rehearsal)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Character*
D2L > Submissions > Character

WEEK 7

10/19

TOPIC: BEATS PART I

-Check your grades/feedback/class progress – the last day to withdraw is 10/25
-Scenes for Beat Breakdown Homework are on D2L (Content > Class Readings > Beat Breakdown Scenes)

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 6: Magnetism

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Beat Breakdown Draft* (D2L > Submissions > Beat Breakdown Draft)

WEEK 8

10/26

TOPIC: BEAT BREAKDOWN REVISIONS IN SMALL GROUPS

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 7: Content
- Kiely 155-159 (Start: Events, Stop: Aristotelian Analysis)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Beat Breakdown Revision*
D2L > Submissions > Beat Breakdown Revision

WEEK 9

11/2

TOPIC: VISUAL STORYTELLING

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Bogart Chapter 8: Time

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Visual Storytelling*
D2L > Submissions > Visual Storytelling

WEEK 10

11/9

TOPIC: GET OUT SCREENING

Course Evaluations

Reading Assignments for This Week:

- Kiely 161-162 (Where is it Personal?)

Assignments Due by Tuesday @ 11:59pm:

- Post twice on D2L Discussion Forum (Reply to whomever posted last)
- *Personal Connection and Reflection*
D2L > Submissions > Personal Connection and Reflection

WEEK 11

11/16

FINALS: NO CLASS MEETING

Assignments Due by tonight at 11:59pm:

- Turn in Personal Connection and Reflection before 11:59PM

Late Work

D2L DISCUSSIONS – Failure to submit your weekly assignment of 1 post on the discussion forum in the allotted week between classes cannot be made up or backlogged. You will receive a zero for that week's discussion.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS – Assignments will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments that are one week late will receive a zero.

INCOMPLETES – No incompletes will be given.

Class Conduct

Tardiness – Your attendance for each class is out of 10 points. Your class attendance grade will be docked by 2 points if you are late. If you show up after I take attendance, it is **your responsibility** to let me know you are here (during class break is the appropriate time). If you do not and I have marked you as absent, you will go into the gradebook as having been absent.

Eating in class: I'll allow it, so long as it does not disturb others or your participation in class.

Electronics: Laptops are allowed only during lectures to take notes, otherwise, they should be closed. In-class, spontaneous thoughts should be written in your director's journal or another notebook. If I catch you on your phone in class, I will dock your participation grade by 2 points each time (Participation is out of 10 points for each class).

Content Warnings

This is an inclusive environment. You may encounter ideas that affirm or undermine your beliefs, which presents a chance for reflection and growth. Learning is uncomfortable, but the disorientation we feel when our world view expands is not the same as a trauma response. Engaging with art can be transformative and cathartic, however, traumatic subject matter can trigger fight-or-flight reactions. Such physiological responses impede learning.

Given that traumatic events are the basis of many stories, I have done my best to flag topics of concern in advance, giving students a chance to prepare. We may screen films or read texts that reference subject matter such as:

- Violence
- Sexual Assault/Rape
- Racism
- Sexism
- Transphobia
- Homophobia
- Ableism

- Abuse/Neglect
- Suicide
- Blood
- Body Shaming
- Death, Dying, and Disease
- Flashing Lights/Epilepsy Triggers

We will explore these topics courageously, respectfully, and honestly as filmmakers. If you need to step out due to something that happens externally or internally in class, go ahead. We can discuss missed work and an alternative way to engage with the course material if needed.

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted: The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.

Additional Accommodations – This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.

Changes to this Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements on D2L and sent via email.