

THR 300C: Theatre Practicum—Area Emphasis Dramaturgy

Students may earn THR 300C credit by serving as dramaturg for a department production. Different productions will have different expectations based on the process. In general, student dramaturgs are expected to complete the following tasks:

- 1) Check in weekly with dramaturgy mentor during the production process, beginning with design meetings and continuing through rehearsals until the show closes. Weekly check-ins may be via email or phone, but should preferably be in person.
- 2) Attend all design meetings to help facilitate collaboration during the design process. The dramaturg will be given time to speak at each meeting. Early meetings will include formal research presentations. **The dramaturg should prepare an initial research PowerPoint presentation.** The dramaturg's role at later design meetings is to listen and take notes, attempting to synthesize ideas. The dramaturg can be a vital part of the design process, partly through research and partly through harnessing creative thought in the room.
- 3) Complete a **research packet** to be distributed to actors at first rehearsal. This will generally include some research that has already been presented to designers. For a show with an existing script, the research packet will include a **glossary** defining important terms in their cultural context.
- 4) Attend rehearsals as needed. At a minimum this would include first read, table work, and all designer runs. The dramaturg should be welcome at all rehearsals. It can be helpful for a dramaturg to gain critical distance by attending early rehearsals and then waiting until a designer run to experience the show as an audience member. Directors should ask dramaturgs for their thoughts about the show; in some ways this is similar to an Assistant Director role. The dramaturg should be willing to watch the show for sight lines and other practical concerns as well as keep an eye on the production's overall impact on the audience. ("As an audience member, this is what I saw...") As at all stages in the process, the dramaturg should ask questions.
- 5) **Prepare program notes.** Usually a Dramaturg's Note in the program is 100-200 words. A draft must be shared with the mentor well in advance of the program deadline. In some cases a director will request to dispense with a dramaturg's note; in others a director might want more expanded dramaturgy in the program. In these cases, both the student dramaturg and the director should consult with Dramaturgy mentor well in advance to ensure that deadlines will be met.
- 6) Dramaturg should be prepared for additional audience engagement activities in collaboration with marketing and engagement efforts. Writing news stories for social media marketing is a possibility. Dramaturg should discuss with director and dramaturgy mentor whether a lobby display might be appropriate. If there is a student matinee, the dramaturg should assist in preparing a Study Guide aimed at high school students. Dramaturg may be invited to Hannah Community Center Prime Time Behind the Scenes class and should check in with director about attending programming such as pre-show and post-show discussions.