

Thea 291 Final Project (250 points)

Dr. Larsen

For this final project, you will act as dramaturg in the pre-production phase of a fictitious production of Sam Shepherd's *Buried Child*. You will be conducting the preliminary work in order to prepare a production dramaturg's book that would be given to a director. You will organize it in a folder within your folder on Dropbox called: LastName_Dramaturgy (Larsen_Dramaturgy). Make sure each section is labeled with LastName.sectionname, ex. Larsen_Images.pdf.

Your writing should be MLA latest edition. Make sure you use the terms provided and the terms we have previously discussed in class. As always, tell me: 1. The answer, 2. Why you think so, 3. Prove it. Grammar counts.

*****See the section in your syllabus about plagiarism. If you plagiarize in this assignment, all policies apply including the assignment of a 0 for this final project.*****

Folder Contents (Total paper except for images section should be 10-15 FULL pages MLA style with work cited page at the end)

Section 1 (125 pts). This section should be the largest section in the binder (5-7 pages). The examples you choose of the different parts of the analysis should support your concept of the play.

1. Your **concept** (theoretical and visual) and why you think so, prove it will work. Brief analysis of the **Plot** (the sequence of events and the connections between them (causal) that comprise the unified dramatic action) using the terms provided in **bold**. Address each term and give one good, relevant, best example. Use the following terms, which include **inciting incident** or incidents (the event or event that "lit the fuse" before the on-stage action of the play begins); **point of attack** (where the action of the play begins, the first major complication; **climax** (usually the greatest intensity of action; the scene in which the major dramatic question is answered and the protagonist discovers whether or not her or his goal will be realized) **resolution** (the conclusion of the action, the restoration of sense of balance) – This is a version of the *structural analysis* that you did. **(45 pts)**
2. Include pertinent notes on characters and their functions within the play including the **protagonist's goal** and the major **dramatic question** (what does the major character want, and how does that relate to the basic question about the way in which the action will unfold?) Who is the antagonist(s), what do they want, how do they block the protagonist and why do you think so? This is a version of the *dynamic analysis*. **(30 pts)**

3. Discuss what kind of emotional experience might a production of this play provide an audience? What has the playwright done to promote identification with a character/s? This is a version of the *affective analysis*. (25 pts)

4. Discuss what this play asks an audience to believe? What is the value structure and point of view of the text. This is a version of the *rhetorical analysis*. (25 pts)

Section 2. Glossary of important terms within the text. This should include words certainly, but customs and cultural terms, as well. (20 pts)

Section 3 (1-2 pages). Bio on playwright and **how** his/her life relates to the play. **Be sure to cite sources in this section in MLA style.** You will get your information from other sources besides yourself. (25 pts)

Section 4 (1-2 pages). History (political, social, economic, etc.) of that particular period in the country where the play is set and how the information you discover relates to the play. Also, discuss how, in terms of history, the script relates to today. This is a version of *thematic analysis*. (30 pts)

Section 5 (2-5 pages). Pick at least two past productions **that were influential** of the script and do a synopsis of them. You will get this information from reviews of the productions. Include what the production companies did and why you have included it in your report. In other words, why do you think these particular productions were most influential? You will have to conduct some extensive research. (25 pts)

Section 6. Images of art, architecture, geography, etc. that are referred to or alluded to in the text along with why you feel they are important. This is a version of the *imagistic analysis* and *functional analysis* (20 pts)

Section 7: Bibliography MLA style (5 pts)

I will subtract 10 points each from your final grade for failing to turn sections in on the specified date on the schedule.