

# PLAYWRITING/PLAY ANALYSIS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kenneth Johnson

Wednesday & Friday

(2:00-3:20pm)

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## **Required Texts**

**The Art & Craft of Playwriting** by Jeffrey Hatcher

**The Playwrights Guidebook** by Stuart Spencer

**Perfect 10** by Gary Garrison

**Additional play scripts as assigned**

## **Course Description:**

The course presents the fundamentals of play analysis and playwriting including plot, act-structure, character development, conflict, dialogue and format. Lectures, writing exercises and analyses are used to teach these concepts. This is a writing class and students will be expected to write everyday in order to complete assignments. The goal for this class is to write a draft of a full length or one-act play. The course will include writing exercises (in-class and take-home), critique of work and reading/analysis of the plays.

## **Key Concepts:**

### **1st Advisory**

Drama and Theatre

Six Elements of Aristotle

Script Analysis

Character

Action

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory**

Character

Space, Time and Causality

Structure

Beginnings, Middles and Endings

Students write a scene/ten minute play

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Advisory**

Dialogue

Ten-minute plays

Begin writing full length or one-act play

### **4<sup>th</sup> Advisory**

Students complete full-length plays

Staged Readings

## **Playwrighting/Play Analysis Syllabus, con't.**

### **Class Concepts:**

1. Typically we will analyze a play every two weeks during the first semester in our ongoing quest to find production and performance values in each play. Students need to learn how to read, interpret, and analyze dramatic texts because it is essential for any type of production work in the theatre.
2. A vital element of every class will be discussion and participation. Healthy discussion is only possible if everyone keeps up with reading assignments. To encourage this frequent quizzes will be given.
3. To write effectively for the theatre, you must immerse yourself in theatre. and attend as many plays as possible. Extra credit will be given for reviews of plays that you attend.
4. You will begin the process of writing your first play at the very beginning of this class. Keeping up with your weekly writing assignments is essential to your success at producing a well-crafted play by the end of the year.
5. Use your computer to complete all writing assignments so that you have an electronic copy that can be e-mailed to me and kept by you for revisions. Writing is rewriting and you will be required to make several revisions of key assignments.

### **Grading:**

<b>Journal and Portfolio</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Classroom Participation/Quizzes</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Project/Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>

### **Final Projects, Exams or Writing Assignments**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Advisory</b>	<b>Monologue/Exam</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory</b>	<b>Scene/Exam</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Advisory</b>	<b>Ten-Minute Play</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Advisory</b>	<b>Full Length or One Act *</b>

**\*Please note that during the 4<sup>th</sup> advisory your full-length play will represent 50% of your grade.**

**Syllabus is Subject to change.**