

PLAYWRITING/PLAY ANALYSIS

INSTRUCTOR: Kenneth Johnson

Wednesday & Friday

(2:00-3:20pm)

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Required Texts

The Art & Craft of Playwrighting 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 playwrighting 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

2nd Advisory

Character

Space, Time and Causality

Structure

Beginnings, Middles and Endings

Students write a scene/ten minute play

3rd Advisory

Dialogue

Ten-minute plays

Begin writing full length or one-act play

4th 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:

Participation

10%

-leadership within the department: behavior in hallway and class, participation in activities like theatre fund raisers and events, volunteer project, ensemble job responsibility

Practice and Application

50%

-warm-ups, in-class discussion, classroom participation, writing, journals, attendance, homework, focus, work-ethic

Assessments

40%

-writing assignments, quizzes, reflective papers, exams, juries, group projects, final projects

Final Projects, Exams or Writing Assignments

1st Advisory

2nd Advisory

3rd Advisory

4th Advisory

Monologue/Exam

Scene/Exam

Ten-Minute Play

Full Length or One Act *

Syllabus is Subject to change.