

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 2120-01	Course Title: Writing for Performance	Date of Offering: Fall 2017
------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: lecture, discussion, student presentations
--------------------------------	--

Brief Course Synopsis:

We will begin with an explanation of the many meanings of dramaturgy and its relationship to playwriting, along with an examination of Aristotle's Poetics. The focus of the course will be on exploration of the various elements of playwriting as designated by Aristotle: plot, character, dialogue, setting, and theme, with consideration as to how they may form varied approaches to creating a play text for performance. Special attention will also be paid to differences in genre, the importance of subtext, and innovations of political theatre and the avant-garde. Ten plays will be read (basically one every week) and various theories of theatre considered. Special emphasis will -- through examination of the play texts -- be paid to how playwrights create their effects and how theatre differs from drama. By participating in the five in-class workshops and take home exercises, students will create dialogue, play ideas, set designs, monologues and outlines. At the end of the course, students will have sufficient tools at their disposal to create a short 5-10 page playlet or 3-5 page monologue. Ultimately through examining play texts, analyzing the elements of drama, and through practical experience, students will be given the opportunity to choose what approach (or approaches) to playmaking appeal most to them. This course has two purposes: to introduce students to play analysis, and to give them a taste of the playwriting experience.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

1. Group Presentation (worth 15% of final mark)
2. Exercises (five exercises -- altogether worth 25 % of final mark)
3. Playlet: (worth 15% of final mark)
4. Final Paper: (worth 20% of final mark)
5. Participation: (worth 15% of final mark)
6. Tests. (worth 10% of the final mark)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Baraka, Amiri. *Dutchman*

Buchner, Georg. *Woyzeck*

Chekhov, Anton. *The Seagull*

Churchill, Caryl. *Cloud Nine*

Coward, Noel. *Private Lives*

Hellman, Lillian. *The Little Foxes*

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Pinter's *The Lover*

Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis*

Hroswitha's *Dulcitius*

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):