

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: CRWR3500	Course Title: Writing for the Inclusive Stage	Semester and Year of Offering: W25
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Course Instructor: Blain Watters	Course Format: Workshop
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Brief Course Synopsis:

In Writing for the Inclusive Stage we will explore what it means to create a character whose life experience is distinctly different from one's own. We will discuss issues of appropriation and also issues of erasure. Students will present a seminar on a play in which the playwright has written characters whose life experience and background is different from their own. Students will write a short play with inclusivity in mind. This can mean characters of a similar socio-economic class as the writer but of a dramatically different age than the writer; it might mean someone who works at a job that the writer knows nothing about, it might mean characters of a more or less economically privileged class than the writer, it might mean characters who use wheelchairs, or are visually impaired, or deaf. It might mean characters with mental health issues. Students must decide on the setting of each play: will it be set in a war zone, or a police station, or a silver mine, or a jungle, or a prison, or a rented room, or a middle class living room? Research will be essential to each student—we are fortunate in that there are thousands of interviews with people from every place, position, ability and race to be found on the internet. We are all wary of venturing into the unknown as writers, and yet it is essential that our stages are inclusive.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>
Monologue	15
Scene	20
First half of Play	25
Full Play	30
Participation	10

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

None

Information about mode of delivery:

This class will be taught in person in a synchronous manner unless the university requires a switch to online learning. In that case, it will be taught virtually in a synchronous manner

Final Exam information:

None

