

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	Course Title: Writing for Performance	Date of Offering: Fall 2019
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Course Instructor: Sky Gilbert	Course Format: discussion/lecture/in class readings
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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 play ideas, dialogue, and playlets. 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 15%
2. Exercises 25%
3. Playlet 15%
4. Final Paper: 20%
5. Participation 15%
6. Tests 10%

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*

*several readings for the class are available online through Course Reserves at the University of Guelph Library website:

Bert Cardullo's 'What is Dramaturgy'
Pinter's *The Lover*
Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis*
excerpts from Apollinaire's *The Breasts of Tiresias*

*several readings are available online through CourseLink:

Aristotle's *Poetics*
Hroswitha's *Dulcitius*
Strindberg's Preface to *Miss Julie*
some information on Scribe and the Well-Made Play
the 'character chart' by Lajos Egri
some information on Adolphe Appia
quotations from Brecht on the epic theatre

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: N/A

Other information about the course (optional):