

TPP 1606 Playwriting

Instructor: Joshua Braun

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Office Hours: M/W 6:40-9:00, M 4:25-5:40, T/R 7:50-9:50, F 7:15-9:00

Course Description:

TPP1606

Playwriting 1/2

3 credits

The process of exploring playwriting styles and techniques is continued. A one-act play of significant length and complexity will be the semester project. (3 hr. lecture)

Course Competencies:

Students will develop their formal abilities in dramatic writing by

- Learning formats appropriate to playwriting
- Executing exercises focused on classical dramatic structure

Students will develop their creative capabilities relative to dramatic writing by

- Executing a number of varied writing exercises
- Completing a one-act play

Students will develop analytic and communication skills relative to the topic through

- Providing analysis of selected manuscripts
- Providing oral feedback to the work of their peers
- Receiving peer and instructor feedback regarding their work

Students will develop their sense of theater artistry by

- Preparing and presenting an organized reading of their completed one-act play

Course Procedures: The above competencies will be achieved through a variety of exercises and, ultimately, through the completion of a one-act play. Students are also expected to provide feedback to the work of their peers, receive feedback from their peers, organize a prepared reading of their play, and participate in the readings of the work of their peers.

Grading: See Addendum

Policies:

All work is to be completed in the appropriate format for play manuscripts. We will discuss this at length in class but once discussed the format is required.

Work that is more than one class period overdue will not be accepted.

No use of cell phones is permitted in class. This also includes the practice of texting.

Feedback on the work of the class is to be respectful and professional, focused on the work itself rather than the writer.

Punctual attendance is required at each class. Late attendance is not permitted.

Students who miss more than two classes without prior arrangement will be

dropped from the class. Arriving late or leaving early is regarded as missing one half of the class.

Failure to adhere to the policies or serious disruptions of the class will result in a referral to the office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Calendar: Below is a partial calendar that will be amended as needed.

Class 1: Intro to class. Exercise 1. Done in class.

Class 2: Play report 1 (see “Evaluation” below). Homework; Exercise 2.

Class 3: Presentation 1 (see “Evaluation below). Homework; Exercise 3.

Class 4: Play report 2. Exercise 4. Done in class.

Class 5: Presentation 2. Homework; Exercise 5.

Class 6: Play report 3. One-act competition report. Exercise 6. Done in class.

Class 7: Presentation 3. Homework; Exercise 7.

Class 8: Play report 4. Synopsis of semester project.

Class 9: Presentation 4. Discussion of Semester project.

Class 10: Play report 5. First draft due.

Class 11: Presentation 5. Feedback on first draft.

Class 12: Second draft due.

Class 13: Attendance and Critique of The Mistakes Madeline Made.

Class 14: Final draft due.

Class 15: Feedback on Final Draft.

Class 16: Readings for Group A.

Class 17: Readings for Group B.

Evaluation: The class is graded on a point system. The number and types of assignments and their values are explained below.

Exercises (7): 150 points each. Some will be done in class, some at home. Each will have a specific task and will be discussed as needed.

Play reports (5). 20 points each. You will read five plays from the proposed list and complete the play report form for each. Note that selections are grouped.

Presentation (1) 100 points. You will select a playwright from the proposed list and prepare a 15-20 minute report that you will present in class. The scope of the presentation will include:

Basic biographical details

Influences of and on

Brief discussion of major works

Titles, years, significant productions, thematic and stylistic features, critical response

Other

One-Act Competition/Festival report (1) 50 points. I will send you a link containing information of various festivals and competitions. You will research three and provide a brief written and oral report.

Synopsis of semester project (1) 50 points. A single paragraph describing the semester project you will create. Action, conflict and character information should be included.

First Draft and Second Draft (1 each) 100 points each. A twelve to twenty page script, properly formatted.

Final Draft, 250 points. A properly formatted, final draft of the play incorporating feedback as appropriate.

Play Reading, 250 points. You will arrange, direct and present a prepared reading of your play. Recruitment and rehearsal of actors is your responsibility.

TOTAL: 2,050 POINTS.

o If you feel that you will be unable to complete the requirements for passing this class, you have the option to withdraw from the class by the College's "drop date" of 10/31/2011. However, there are consequences of which you need to be aware if you drop a class or stop attending and you should always speak to your instructor or an advisor first. For example, you must earn at least two-thirds or 67% of the total credits for which you have registered and that failure to comply with this requirement will adversely impact your financial aid status with MDC. If after considering the possible consequences, you still opt drop the class, keep in mind that it is your responsibility to do so (not the instructor's) and failure to withdrawal will result in you earning a grade of "F" for the course you stop attending.

If extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, accident, change in employment situation, etc.) prevent you from continuing to attend your class before the drop date, speak to your instructor first and if needed, to the Chairperson to assess your options.

Holidays:

S Sep 3, 2011

U Sep 4, 2011

M Sep 5, 2011

Veterans Day

F Nov 11, 2011

S Nov 12, 2011

U Nov 13, 2011

Thanksgiving

R Nov 24, 2011

F Nov 25, 2011

S Nov 26, 2011

U Nov 27, 2011