



## THE 308-001 Playwriting COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2014

**Instructor:** Jim Tyler Anderson  
**Office Location:** PAC 103  
**Office Hours:** 2:15PM-4:15PM, MWT or by appointment  
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**Classroom:** PAC 126  
**TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM**

### COURSE INFORMATION

**Materials will be provided by the instructor**

#### **Course Description:**

Theatre 308 *Playwriting* is designed for Theatre majors and interested non-majors who are who want to write for the stage. Through in-class discussions, play readings, and writing exercises, as well as outside reading and writing assignments, students will explore the creative process in dramatic script development. Critique sessions will provide diverse analyses of dramatic works by established authors and student playwrights. Students will each write at least 3 original dramatic works of 10 to 15 minutes duration, in a professional manuscript format. Scripts will be read in class for oral critique, revised and edited, and performed as staged readings as the final term project. Class members will gain experience in dramatic structure, plot and character development, dialogue and narrative writing, analysis and dramaturgy. Upon request of the instructor assignments will be submitted in electronic form.

#### **Requirements**

##### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
2. Developing creative capacities
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving and decisions)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and class participation
- Script treatments, scenarios, or “beat sheets” for each submitted work
- Script Development: A minimum of 30 finished manuscript pages. Incomplete works will not be counted.
- Complete short plays, screenplays, scenes and beats as directed by the instructor
- Midterm examination
- Final term project: Public presentation of the author’s choice of his or her best work.

## **Grading**

Grades are derived from an average of grades for the requirements listed above. All submissions will be portions of works-in-progress. Final grades will not be given for incomplete works. A brief narrative treatment of each work will accompany all script submissions. Students will turn in a bound author's journal containing the above materials at the end of the semester, or an electronic version thereof.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

It is important that instructors and students maintain an open and on-going communication. Please feel free to drop by my office any time during my office hours, contact me to make an appointment, or call my office, or contact me by e-mail. If you are having trouble with any assignment don't hesitate to ask for help.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

Except water, no food or beverages are allowed in the classroom. Silence phones and other devices during class. Turn them off during performances.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### *ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

#### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).