



**THE 544.001 – Playwriting
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015**

Instructor: Michael G. Knight, Jr., Assoc. Professor of Theatre Design, Department Head

Office Location: PAC rm. 102

Office Hours: by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s)/Materials Required:

TITLE:	Playwriting: The Structure of Action
AUTHORS:	Sam Smiley & Norman Bert
ISBN:	978-0-300-10724-1

Course Description:

An individual study of dramatic theory, development of the script, and analysis of original scenes and plays. The course also includes the research and development of a completed dramatic work. (Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to understand both the basic and the more advanced tenets of playwriting within the parameters of a dramatic work.
2. The student will be able to identify a variety of playwrights and styles.
3. The student will be able to complete a fully realized dramatic work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Students will be graded on a series of reading selection, class projects, practical application of the knowledge that they have learned, the completion of a realized dramatic work, as well as in class discussion and exams.

Grading:

Assignments:	10	10 pts.	100 pts.
Class Participation:	1	100 pts.	100 pts.
Play:	1	200 pts.	200 pts.
Mid-Term Exam:	1	100 pts.	100 pts.
Final Exam:	1	100 pts.	100 pts.
		TOTAL:	600 pts.

Points Breakdown:

600-550 pts. = A
549-500 pts. = B
499-450 pts. = C
449-400 pts. = D
399-000 pts. = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Technology requirements for this course include basic computer knowledge and a working e-mail address that is checked often. Students must have access to the internet as well as e-college.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

N/A

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please see me after class and set up an appointment time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Students enrolled in this will follow all safety procedures and policies set in place by the local, federal, and university governments.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is required. Attendance in one of my classes means physical as well as mental attendance to the course. If I find you sleeping, texting, reading material not directly related to class, or unwilling to participate in class activities, you will be asked to leave the class.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the undocumented use of other people's intellectual property. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" for the course and will also be directed to the Dean of Students to discuss the event. There are no exceptions to this rule.

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
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
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
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Student Disability Resources & Services

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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*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Class Schedule: *schedule is subject to change*

WEEK 1	Introduction to course/syllabus Your Play Manuscript Format ASSIGNMENT #1 "CHARACTER 2 WAYS"
WEEK 2	CHAPTER 1 "VISION" (ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE)
WEEK 3	CHAPTER 2 "FINDING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS" ASSIGNMENT #2
WEEK 4	CHAPTER 3: "DRAFTING AND REVISION" (ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE)
WEEK 5	CHAPTER 4: "PLOT" ASSIGNMENT #3
WEEK 6	CHAPTER 5: "STORY" (ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE)
WEEK 7	1 ST DRAFT OF PLAY IS DUE
WEEK 8	MID TERM EXAM (ASSIGNMENT #6 DUE)
WEEK 9	CHAPTER 6: "CHARACTER" MID TERM EXAMS RETURNED ASSIGNMENT #7
WEEK 10	CHAPTER 7: "THOUGHT" (ASSIGNMENT #7 DUE) <u>The Six Elements of Drama</u> <u>Presentations #1</u> <u>Assignment #7</u> <u>(Assignment #6 due)</u>
WEEK 11	CHAPTER 8: "DICTION" ASSIGNMENT #8 <u>Plot</u>

Presentations #2
Assignment #8
(Assignment #7 due)

WEEK 12 CHAPTER 9: "MELODY"
(ASSIGNMENT #8 DUE) Character
Presentations #3
Assignment #9
(Assignment #8 due)

WEEK 13 CHAPTER 10: "SPECTACLE"
ASSIGNMENT #9 Thought
Presentations #4
Assignment #10
(Assignment #9 due)

WEEK 14: CHAPTER 11: "A WAY OF LIFE"
(ASSIGNMENT #9 DUE) Diction
Presentations #5
(Assignment #10 due)

WEEK 15: Music
Spectacle
TBA—TBA
ASSIGNMENT #10

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM
(ASSIGNMENT #10 DUE) TBA

WEEK 17: Final Exam
Play Due