



**College of Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts
Department of Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS:
Theatre 497 Advanced Playwriting
Fall 2015**

Instructor: Jim Tyler Anderson

Office Location: PAC103

Office Hours: MWF 1:00PM- 4:30 PM, TR 1:00PM-2:45PM, or by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Naked Playwriting: The Art, the Craft, and the Life Laid Bare, by William Missouri Downs and Robin U. Russin (Availability may be delayed)

For further reading, I suggest, in no particular order:

Playwriting: the Structure of Action, by Sam Smiley; *The Art of Dramatic Writing*, by Lajos Egri; *Screenplay-The Foundations of Screenwriting*, by Syd Field; *Story*, by Robert McKee, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*, (*The Collected Works*) by Joseph Campbell

And finally, a book that should be on any writer's bookshelf is, *The Writer's Journey- Mythic Structure for Writers* by Christopher Vogler and Michele Montez.

Course Description:

Advanced Playwriting is designed for Theatre majors, and interested non-majors who wish to hone their story-telling skills by writing medium length works for the stage and screen. There will be an emphasis on professionalism and craftsmanship. Works for the stage, completed prior to November 1 are eligible for submission to the 2015-16 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
2. Developing creative capacities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Each student will concentrate on creating and revising one manuscript in proper format of 50- 100 pages. Students will submit, on a regular basis sections of this work of not less than 10 pages for in-class reading and critique.

There will also be two shorter writing assignments of 10 pages each.

Grading

Criteria include: timely submission; manuscript format; story structure; characters; descriptive, yet economical stage or camera directions; character growth and change; theme; language; sound elements and visual elements.

- A** 90%-100% (exceptional quality work)
- B** 80%-89% (above average quality work)
- C** 70%-79% (average quality work)
- D** 60%-69% (below average quality work)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All work must be submitted electronically by email. Students should also save work to external drives or discs.

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.

If you need help with research or finding materials, please contact Megan Beard at Gee Library. 903-886-5719, Megan.Beard@TAMUC

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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

[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*).