

Texas A&M University-Commerce, Dept. of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre

Theatre 308-001 *Playwriting*

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Jim Tyler Anderson, Playwright in Residence, Senior Lecturer

Meetings: MW 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, PAC 112

Office: PAC 103

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E-mail: Jim_Anderson@tamu-commerce.edu

Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 PM and 3:30-5:00 PM, MWF, or by appointment.

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

- 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
- Mid term examination
- Final term project: Public presentation of the author’s choice of his or her best work.

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.

Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Intellectual property

By law, authors own all rights to their original works and contributions to collaborative works. The United States Library of Congress Register of Copyrights exists to insure legal documentation of authorship and date of first publication. *Students are strongly urged to register copyrights for all dramatic works using the forms provided by the Register of Copyrights.*

TEXT

Naked Playwriting The Art, the Craft, and the Life Laid Bare, by

William Missouri Downs and Robin U. Russin

ISBN: 1-879505-76-2

Students with Disabilities:

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

Halladay Student Services Building

Room 303 A/D

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu