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THE 308 Intro to Playwriting
MWF 10am – 10:50 am PAC 112
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Office Location:	PAC 128
Office Hours:	M/W 1-3pm and by appointment
Office Phone:	903-886-5337
University Email Address:	Jackie.Rosenfeld@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	E-mail or D2L e-mail
Communication Response Time:	Mon-Fri within 24 hours

“When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses, for art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgement. The artists, however faithful to his personal vision of reality, becomes the last champion of the individual mind and sensibility against an intrusive society and an officious state. The great artist is thus a solitary figure. He has, as Frost said, "a lover's quarrel with the world." In pursuing his perceptions of reality, he must often sail against the currents of his time. This is not a popular role.”

== John F. Kennedy

“I skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been.”

== Wayne Gretzky

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

You may acquire these materials from the campus bookstore or an online retailer. *Playwriting with Purpose* will likely not have used copies available as it is published August 17, 2021.

Textbook(s) Required:

Title: *Playwriting with Purpose* 1st Edition

Author: Jacqueline Goldfinger

Publisher : Routledge; 1st edition (August 17, 2021)

ISBN-10 : 1032003812

ISBN-13 : 978-1032003818

Title: *Backwards & Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays* 1st Edition

Author: David Ball

Publisher : Southern Illinois University Press; 1st edition (July 7, 1983)

ISBN-10 : 0809311100

ISBN-13 : 978-0809311101

Software Required: Microsoft Word or other word processing software

Course Description

The definition of a playwright is someone who *builds* plays, rather than simply writing them. To do this a writer must have an immense understanding of character, conflict, and consequence. Every playwright has their own unique voice and style, often derived from their own life experiences. This course is designed to help each student become a builder of plays, and to allow that unique voice and perspective be discovered and shared.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to understand the basic tenets of playwriting within the parameters of a dramatic work.
2. The student will be able to identify a variety of playwrights, writing styles, and writing techniques.
3. The student will be able to participate as a professional in workshops with both their own and other students' works.
4. The student will be able to complete a production ready draft of a short play.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have access to a computer and the ability to use Microsoft Word or other

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word-processing software. Students must also be familiar with how to use the D2L Brightspace platform including uploading documents to Dropbox as .pdfs.

Instructional Methods

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

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared. Read what needs to be read. Write what needs to be written.
3. Participate. There is a great deal of exciting discussion in this course, and it will be even more exciting with your ideas.
4. Check your school e-mail regularly.
5. Be respectful of your instructor, your classmates, and yourself.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Short Writing Assignments 20%

Discussion/Participation 20%

Midterm Exam 20%

Playwright Presentation 20%

Production Ready Draft 20%

TOTAL 100%

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Assessments

Short Writing Assignments: Through the first half of the semester at least once a week I will assign a short writing assignment based on a prompt given in class. Often you will have class time to begin writing. They will be due, typed and formatted correctly, on D2L each Sunday night by midnight.

Discussion/Participation: This is not simply about showing up but about being involved in the class discussion and participating as a respectful collaborator. The largest part of this grade will be related to your participation during in class readings/workshops of both your and your classmates plays. Guidelines for the workshops will be provided in class.

Midterm Exam: This exam will be over the information covered early in the semester both in readings from the texts and class lecture/discussion as well short play readings provided by the instructor.

Playwright Presentation: Each student will choose or be assigned a working professional playwright to interview (in person, via e-mail, or video conferencing) about their writing process. The student will write a 700 word essay on what they learned from the playwright and create a short presentation for the class. Further instructions will be given in class.

Production Ready Draft: After the midterm exam, each student will choose from their short writing assignments the beginnings a ten-minute play. The second half of the semester will be spent developing that play through writing in and out of class as well as in class readings/workshops. The final assignment for this course, due on the last day of class, will be a production-ready draft of the play. Further instructions will be given in class.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I welcome visits during my office hours and am always happy to make appointments during a time that works best for both the student and I. I don't believe in dumb questions, though I do believe often times the syllabus has not been checked before some questions are asked. If you think it might be on there (a due date or a class policy) check there first. Otherwise feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office. Monday through Friday I will respond to e-mails with 24 hours.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

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LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tentative Calendar

Date	In Class	Assignment/Activities
M 8/30	Introduction to Class	
W 9/1	Syllabus	
F 9/3	What is theatre? How is it different from writing other types of literature? What is a ten minute play? This I Believe	
M 9/6	LABOR DAY	
W 9/8	Monologs (bring your favorites!)	
F 9/10	Writing Assignment 1	
M 9/13	Discuss Part 1	Begin <i>Backwards and Forwards</i>
W 9/15	Discuss Parts 2 & 3	
F 9/17	Writing Assignment 2	
M 9/20	Discuss Intro, Prologue & Ch 1 Creating Compelling Characters	Begin: <i>Playwriting with Purpose</i>
W 9/22	Discuss Ch2 Writing Electric Dialogue and Silent Moments	
F 9/24	Playwright Presentation Assignment Explained	
M 9/27	Discuss Ch 3 The Well-Made Play (Short & Long Form)	
W 9/29	Discuss Ch 4 Environment & Idea & <i>Spirit of Transformation</i>	
F 10/1	Writing Assignment 3	
M 10/4	Discuss Ch 5 Scene Structure	
W 10/6	Discuss Ch 6 PWP Monologue Structure	
F 10/8	Writing Assignment 4	
M 10/11	Discuss Ch 7 PWP Writing in 3-D for the Living Stage	
W 10/13	Discuss Ch 8 Thoughts on Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>	

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F 10/15	Writing Assignment 5	
M 10/18	Discuss Ch 9 Other Structures	
W 10/20	Discuss Ch 10 PWP The Limitless Room	
F 10/22	Writing Assignment 6	
M 10/25	Discuss Ch 11 PWP The Revision Process	
W 10/27	Review for Midterm	
F 10/29	MIDTERM EXAM	
M 11/1	Discuss PWP Ch 12 The Business of Playwriting	
W 11/3	Playwright Q&A	
F 11/5	Creating a Writer's Resume Workshop Guidelines	
M 11/8	Play 1 Workshop 1	
W 11/10	Play 2 Workshop 1	
F 11/12	Play 3 Workshop 2	
M 11/15	Play 4 Workshop 3	
W 11/17	Play 5 Workshop 5	
F 11/20	Workshop reflection	Presentation Essays due by 11:59 pm on Sunday 11/21
M 11/22	Playwright Presentations	
W 11/24	Playwright Presentations	
F 11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
M 11/29	Play 1 Workshop 2	
W 12/1	Play 2 Workshop 2	
F 12/3	Play 3 Workshop 2	
M 12/6	Play 4 Workshop 2	
W 12/8	Play 5 Workshop 5	
F 12/10	Reflection on Semester	Plays due by 11:59pm

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