



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

THE 544.001 Playwriting
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Email: jackie.rosenfeld@tamuc.edu
Office Hours: M/W 10am – 12:00pm T/Th 3:30-5pm and by appointment (I am happy to arrange Zoom meetings as needed for those not on campus.)
Office Location: PAC 128

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Decentered Playwriting 1st Edition
by Carolyn M. Dunn (Editor), Eric Micha Holmes (Editor), Les Hunter (Editor)
ISBN: 978-1032218083
Available on Amazon for \$45/paperback or Kindle (do not get hard cover!)
AND
The Playwright's Toolbox by Justin Maxwell
ISBN: 978-1493077823
Available on Amazon for \$25/paperback or Kindle

*all texts are also available via the ETA&M bookstore

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)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

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.

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, and exams.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have access to a computer and the ability to use Microsoft Word or other 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 work about or using the principals learned as well as posted class discussion and exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

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

Grading

Details for all assignments will be provided by instructor.

Reading Reflections (20%)

Students will summarize and respond to weekly readings about the craft of playwriting.

Writing Activities (15%)

Students will complete short writing activities using theories/styles introduced in weekly readings.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Discussion Posts (10%)

There will be a minimum of 3 discussion post assignments. Students will be required to create their own post and response to a minimum of two posts by other students for each assignment.

Rough Draft (20%)

Students will complete a rough draft of a short play (or section of a larger work) using a theory of combination of styles learned and practiced in weekly assignments.

Rough Draft Reader Responses (2 @ 5% each – 10%)

Students will read two rough drafts written by fellow students and complete a response form.

Second Draft (25%)

Students will complete a revision of their first draft using feedback from fellow students and the instructor.

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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>

LMS Browser Support:

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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 either stop by my office or e-mail me to set up an appointment to speak in person or on Zoom. I will respond to all e-mails Monday – Friday within 24 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101 Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

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

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Work:

If you need an extension on any assignment it must be requested no less than 48 hours before it is due. Extensions are not guaranteed.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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>

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

East Texas A&M University

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

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Departmental-Specific Procedures

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TBA

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.