



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAMA 481.5 – Advanced Topics in Theatre practice (Writing for Performance)
Session: Spring 2023 (May 3-June 15)

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Meg Braem TBA meghan.braem@ucalgary.ca By Appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	In Person component will take play on Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur (6:30-7:50 pm) Location: CHF 214
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Materials: -Journal -pens/pencils -Other Mandatory Reading: Wajdi Mouawad, <i>Scorched</i> (Playwrights Canada Press: 2005) Kate Hewlett, <i>The Swearing Jar</i> (Scirocco Drama, 2013) Clem Martini, <i>The Blunt Playwright</i> (Playwrights Canada Press: 2019) Recommended Reading: Syd Field, <i>Screenplay</i> (Bantam Dell: 2005) Shawn Coyne, <i>The Story Grid</i> (Black Irish Entertainment: 2015) Blake Snyder, <i>Save The Cat: The last book on screenwriting you'll ever need</i> (Michael Wiese Productions: 2005) Aristotle, <i>The Poetics</i> (The University of Michigan: 1967)
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).
Course description	This course will introduce writers at any level to the essentials of writing for the stage, screen or radio. Students will explore character, dramatic action, dialogue, and structure. Students will support each other from initial idea to finding the structure that best suits their chosen form.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Form an appreciation and understanding of dramatic writing as a genre. 2. Encourage and develop generative thought as a means of creating ideas. 3. Develop an awareness of dramatic structure (playable action) 4. Develop skills in creating character, dialogue, and dramatic action 5. Understand similarities and differences of writing for the stage, screen, radio
Assessment components	Assignment 1: Character Creation Value: 20% Due Date: May 11 Students will create a character with an internal and external life to be used in their play.

	<p><u>Assignment 2:</u> One Pager Value: 20% Due Date: May 18 Students will develop a one-pager for a screenplay idea, focusing on making the logline and synopsis both logical and compelling.</p> <p><u>Assignment 3:</u> Draft 1 Value: 20% Due Date: May 29 Students will write an initial draft of a one act play (using either screenplay or stage play format).</p> <p><u>Assignment 4:</u> Screenplay/Play comparison Value: 20% Due Date: June 5 Students will compare the screenplay and play script of either Scorched/Incendies or The Swearing Jar and discuss how the stories which were originally written for the stage were adapted for film.</p> <p><u>Assignment 5:</u> Draft 2 (Final Draft) Value: 20% Due Date: June 15 After receiving feedback from peers using The Critical Response Process, students will write a second and final draft of their play.</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Expectations for Attendance and Participation:</u> The full responsibility for meeting class, tests and term papers of the section of the course in which he/she is officially registered lies solely with the student.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for Formatting Assignments:</u> All assignments need to be typed and double spaced with your full name and student number on the first page. All of the assignments are expected to be grammatically Correct and written using a proper essay format. Students are welcome to use APA or MLA to properly cite their work.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Your assignments must be submitted on D2L by 11pm of the due date.</p> <p><u>Late Assignments:</u> A late assignment, or exam loses 5% per day for up to one week after the scheduled due date (including weekends). After seven days the assignment will receive an automatic zero.</p> <p><u>Extensions:</u> Extensions are rarely granted. They are only given in exceptional circumstances such as family emergencies (and must be validated.) You may not receive an extension due to a failure to meet your workload. Extension will not be granted within five days of a due date.</p>

	<p><u>Academic Accommodation</u></p> <p>It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability or who requires academic accommodation, and have not registered with Accessibility Services, please call that office at 403 440-6868. You must be registered with Accessibility Services to access academic accommodation.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u></p> <p>Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work.</p> <p>All written assignments will be done in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, and include a title page with the student’s name and student ID number, course code and name, instructor’s name, and the due date. All students are expected to adhere to high standards in correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word usage.</p> <p>Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p> <p><u>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass</u></p> <p>Students must complete and pass all the assignments and exams to receive credit for this course.</p>												
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="500 1102 1047 1234"> <tr> <td>A+ 97.6-100</td> <td>A 92.6-97.5</td> <td>A- 90-92.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+ 87.6-89.9</td> <td>B 82.6-87.5</td> <td>B- 80-82.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+ 77.6- 79.9</td> <td>C 72.6-77.5</td> <td>C- 70-72.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+ 67.6-69.9</td> <td>D 62.6-67.5</td> <td>F 0-62.5</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. 	A+ 97.6-100	A 92.6-97.5	A- 90-92.5	B+ 87.6-89.9	B 82.6-87.5	B- 80-82.5	C+ 77.6- 79.9	C 72.6-77.5	C- 70-72.5	D+ 67.6-69.9	D 62.6-67.5	F 0-62.5
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Guidelines for Zoom Sessions	<p>Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.</p> <p>To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.</p> <p>The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names</p>												

	<p>officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .</p> <p>If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p>
Academic Accommodation	<p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/ .</p>
Academic integrity, plagiarism	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf and https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</p>

Internet and electronic communication device	The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf .
Intellectual Property	Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.
Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html .
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.
Student Support	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines

Drama 481.05: Writing for Performance:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur (6:30-7:50pm) Location: CHF 214

SCHEDULE – Slight adjustments may be made to the course schedule at the instructor's discretion

Week 01 (May 3, 4)	<u>May 3 (Wed):</u> Course Overview <u>May 4 (Thur):</u> -Prose/Film/Plays -Titanic Plot -5 plot points exercise
Week 02 (May 8, 9, 10, 11)	<u>May 8 (Mon):</u> How to Build a Character class exercise (internal/external life) <u>May 9 (Tues):</u> Critical Response Process Creating a character (individual) Sharing <u>May 10 (Wed):</u> Screenwriting (Ted) <u>May 11 (Thur):</u> Screenwriting (Ted) Assignment 1: Character Creation Assignment (DUE May 11)
Week 03 (May 15, 16, 17, 18)	<u>May 15 (Mon):</u> Aristotle, story elements -What is dramatic action and how do I write it? (Show, don't tell!) -Setting isn't just a place where stuff happens, make it work for you! -Character +Action =Drama <u>May 16 (Tues):</u> Monologue/Character voice Outline/one pager introduction <u>May 17 (Wed):</u> Watch <i>Incendies</i> film *Have <i>Scorched</i> read May 18 (Thur): Finish <i>Incendies</i> film Discussion about film version vs. play version of <i>Incendies/Scorched</i> Assignment 2: ONE PAGER Assignment (DUE May 18)
Week 04 (May 22, 23, 24, 25)	<u>May 22 (Mon):</u> NO CLASS-Victoria Day <u>May 23 (Tues)</u> Dialogue, scenes, Exercise: write a scene from your play/film

	<p><u>May 24 (Wed):</u> Watch <i>The Swearing Jar</i> film *Have <i>The Swearing Jar</i> read</p> <p><u>May 25 (Thur):</u> Watch <i>The Swearing Jar</i> film Discussion about <i>The Swearing Jar</i> film vs. play</p>
Week 05 (May 29, 30, 31, June 1)	<p><u>May 29 (Mon):</u> Conversation with Lindsay Mackay, director of <i>The Swearing Jar</i> Assignment 3: First Draft (DUE May 29)</p> <p><u>May 30 (Tues):</u> Share Draft 1(in progress) during class (cold reads)</p> <p><u>May 31 (Wed):</u> Share Draft 1(in progress) during class (cold reads)</p> <p><u>June 1 (Thur):</u> Share Draft 1(in progress) during class (cold reads)</p>
Week 06 (June 5, 6, 7, 8)	<p><u>June 5 (Mon):</u> Poems from the clown gods Assignment 4: Film/ Play Comparison (DUE June 5)</p> <p><u>June 6 (Tues):</u> Genre writing -Love story, Thriller (expected scenes)</p> <p><u>June 7 (Wed):</u> Film/theatre acting (Stafford Perry)</p> <p><u>June 8 (Thur):</u> Film producer Kevin Dong</p>
Week 07 (June 12, 13,14 15)	<p><u>June 12 (Mon):</u> Share Final Draft (in progress) during class (Cold reads)</p> <p><u>June 13 (Tues):</u> Share Final Draft (in progress) during class (Cold reads) Rehearsal of readings</p> <p><u>June 14 (Wed)</u> Sharing of Final Drafts (10 minutes each) with invited audience</p> <p><u>June 15 (Thur)</u> Final discussion/questions for Meg and Ted Assignment 5: Final Draft (Due June 15)</p>

Incendies Film: Available in the U of Calgary library

https://media3-criterionpic-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/htbin/wwform/006?T=AL502262&ALIAS=AL502262_EST.KF&M=0_feg18pd1&DSTYLE=0#multimedia_resources_AL502262