



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA
DRAM 371 – Introduction to Playwriting
Session: Fall 2015

Instructor	Clem Martini
Office	CHD012
Email	martini@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	By appointment
Day(s), Time(s) and Location of Class	Monday & Wednesday 15:00 – 16:50 CHE012
Out of Class Activities	Selected readings and writing exercises
Learning Resources: Required Readings, Textbooks and Materials	<i>The Blunt Playwright</i> will be employed throughout the semester. It is available for purchase in the University of Calgary bookstore. In addition, a number of plays will either be assigned for reading between classes, or will be read and studied in class. These additional readings will be provided to you.
Prerequisites	Drama 200, 223, 225 and 240 or consent of the Division Chair, Drama, or submitted portfolio.
Supplementary Fees	None.
Course Description	Directed exercises in writing for the theatre; workshop sessions for developing and reworking material.
Course Overview	In this preliminary playwriting course, concepts pertaining to dramatic writing will be explored within the context of close scrutiny of individual scenes and the One Act form. A central premise of the course is that the best way to understand any form of writing is through the practice of writing it. That being the case, there will be a number of writing assignments given. As a rule, a selection of these assignments will be read aloud in class and receive critique from class members. These assignments should be typed and handed in <i>on time</i> . The class will cover, through a series of assignments, matters pertaining to playwriting, including dramatic structure, character development and the generation of effective dialogue. Students will be expected to draw upon all of the learning outcomes arrived at through completion of prior assignments, to deliver a final, short, one act play.
Course Learning Outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Understand dramatic structure. 2. Understand and reproduce the template for a dramatic work. 3. Better appreciate the various technical skills that are required for playwriting. 4. Generate effective dramatic dialogue. 5. Create a short, one act play.
Course Schedule:	Details will be provided in the first class.
Assessment Components	Assignment 1: A scene demonstrating dramatic action and character development. Value: 5% Due Date: Sept. 21 Type: Written Assignment Description: A scene, featuring strong characters, a dramatic build, driven by dramatic action, with a beginning, middle and end. Should be roughly 5 to 6 minutes long, when read aloud.

	<p>Assignment 2: A scene derived from found dialogue. Value: 10% Due Date: Oct. 5 Type: Written Assignment Description: A scene inspired by observed and overheard dialogue. It should - as should all the scenes written for this class - feature a dramatic build, strong dramatic action, and a powerful beginning, middle and end. Should be roughly 5 to 6 minutes long, when read aloud.</p> <p>Assignment 3: A scene derived from memory. Value: 10% Due Date: Oct. 21 Type: Written Assignment Description: A scene, inspired by a past remembered experience. It should - as should all the scenes written for this class - feature a dramatic build, strong dramatic action, and a powerful beginning, middle and end. Should be roughly 5 to 6 minutes long, when read aloud.</p> <p>Assignment 4: A rewrite. Value: 15% Due Date: Nov. 2 Type: Written Assignment Description: One of the previously assigned scenes should be selected and rewritten. The rewrite should be guided by a specific plan to strengthen and clarify the scene. A written paragraph should be attached describing the purpose of the rewrite.</p> <p>Assignment 5: A short, one act play – first draft. Value: 20% Due Date: Nov. 16 Type: Written Assignment Description: A play of about 15 to 20 minutes length, (Performance time). Should demonstrate a dramatic build, clear characterizations, conflict, effective dialogue, a powerful beginning, middle and end.</p> <p>Final Assignment A short, one act play – final draft Value: 25% Date: Dec. 7 Details: A play of about 15 to 20 minutes length, (Performance time). Should demonstrate a dramatic build, clear characterizations, conflict, effective dialogue, a powerful beginning, middle and end. Should correct deficits apparent in the previous draft, and demonstrate improvement.</p> <p>Participation A further 10% of the total marks will be reserved for participation. Participation includes attendance, engagement in critiques and classroom discussions, ability to listen attentively and respectfully to other opinions and points of view.</p>
Assessment Expectations	<p>Expectations for Writing: Writing is an essential part of this course. Students are expected to proof read their work, and hand in assignments that have been thoughtfully, carefully edited with the intention of attaining clear meaning and a strong, dramatic presentation.</p>

Expectations for Attendance and Participation:

As the discussion and workshopping of the materials in this course is relevant to all students of the class, regular attendance, and participation in discussions will be considered an essential.

Guidelines for Formatting Assignments

All dramatic assignments should conform to the templates provided in The Blunt Playwright.

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments

Assignments should be handed in on time. A title page should be attached to each assignment and should include: the title, the assignment number, the student's name.

Late Assignments

Assignments should be handed in on-time. Unless there has been prior permission received for a late assignment, the assignment will receive a ten percent deduction.

Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass

In order to pass any assignment, or the course itself, the student must achieve fifty percent or better.

Grading Scale

For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.2 of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2015-2016:

Grade	GPA	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The following letter/numerical equivalents will apply:

Letter	%	GPA	Description
A+	98 – 100	4.0	Extraordinary
A	90 – 98	4.0	Excellent
A-	85 – 90	3.7	
B+	80 – 85	3.3	
B	75 – 80	3.0	Above average
B-	70 – 75	2.7	
C+	67 – 70	2.3	
C	63 – 67	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	60 – 63	1.7	

	D+ 55 – 60 1.3 D 50 – 55 1.0 Unsatisfactory F Fail	
MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULING	Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (11-22 December for Fall 2015 term; 16-27 April for Winter 2016 term); students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final	
DEFERRALS OF EXAMS/TERM WORK	It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examinations for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with your advisor if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines. ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html	
INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE	elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/ ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor's policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor.	
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM	The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html) and are reminded that plagiarism-- Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.	
COPYRIGHT	It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students. Further copyright information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (library.ucalgary.ca/copyright).	
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION	Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); 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/ . 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. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf .	
FOIP	ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy	
STUDENT MISCONDUCT	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html	
ACADEMIC STANDING	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html	
SAFEWALK	220-5333 anytime. ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk	
CAMPUS SECURITY	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.	

EMERGENCY EVACUATION	Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. The primary assembly point for Craigie Hall is the Professional Faculties Food Court. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For academic advising, visit the Arts Students' Centre (ASC) for answers about course registration, graduation checks, and the 'big picture' on programs and majors. Drop in at SS102, email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca or call us at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. • For academic success support, such as writing support, peer support, success seminars, and learning support, visit the Student Success Centre on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), email them at success@ucalgary.ca or visit their website at ucalgary.ca/ssc/ for more information or to book an appointment. • For enrolment assistance, including registration (add/drop/swap) changes, paying fees, and navigating your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625], by email at futurestudents@ucalgary.ca or visit them at the MacKimmie Block 117.
COURSE OUTLINES FOR TRANSFER CREDIT	It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.
LETTER OF PERMISSION	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the U of C, you must have a letter of permission. You can submit your request through your Student Centre at MyUofC. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.
STUDENT UNION CONTACT STUDENT OMBUDSPERSON	Student Union: su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts2@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts3@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts4@su.ucalgary.ca Graduate Student's Association: gsa.ucalgary.ca/executive Student Ombudsman: su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights
UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 uofcdus@gmail.com MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 undmusic@ucalgary.ca