

TPP 4600 Playwriting Workshop
Fall Semester, 2019

Section 03H2
TR period 3-4
MCCB 2134

Dr. Ralf Remshardt
227 McGuire Pavilion
rremshardt@arts.ufl.edu
Office hours: TBA & by
appointment

The playwriting workshop is a structured environment in which students can explore their creativity as dramatists. It aims to make all of its members practicing playwrights for the current semester (and perhaps beyond). The emphasis is on the development of a viable dramatic idea and the completion of a playscript. We will first explore the possibilities of the dramatic genre(s) in general, then each student will launch into a particular project, guided by individual critiques from the instructor and feedback from other members of the workshop. The final result will be the completed version of a dramatic one-act.

PART 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading/Assignment</u>
August		
T 20	Introduction	
R 22	Beginnings	Edgar, Preface and Chapter 1
T 27	Ideas	
R 29	Contemporary plays	<i>We Are Proud to Present...</i> (PDF)
September		
T 3	The Pitch	<u>First pitch due</u>
R 5	Action and Character	Edgar, Chapter 2 and 3
T 10		
R 12	Genre	Edgar, Chapter 4
T 17	Structure	Edgar, Chapter 5
T 19	Scenes	Edgar, Chapter 6
T 24	Work on 10-minute play	
T 26	Read 10-minute play	<u>10 minute play due</u>
October		
T 1	Devices	Edgar, Chapter 7

PART 2 Beginning on Tuesday, October 8, we will schedule individual conferences during the Tuesday sessions. When not in conference, students will use the sessions as writing time to work on their projects. During the Thursday sessions, we will read and discuss scenes as they progress. *Every writer must have some scene work, new or revised, ready to bring in on Thursdays.* Make one copy for each speaker and one extra copy for the instructor.

☞ October 29: Complete first draft of entire script due!!

PART 3 In the third part of the class, beginning October 31st, we will refine the drafts and work towards the staged readings at the end of the semester. The emphasis will be on problem-solving and polishing.

☞ December 3: Staged reading of selected scenes

A Note on peer feedback: The exposure of your writing to your peers in the class is an important part of the Playwriting Workshop. Since any project under development is vulnerable to criticism, it is absolutely crucial that all feedback remain as objective and constructive as possible.

Grading:

Participation and Class involvement	25 points
Ongoing written assignments / 10-minute play	25 points
Scenario	10 points
Final play (incl. drafts)	40 points
Total	100 points

100-85: A 85-70: B 70-50: C 50-25: D 25-0: E

Texts:

Edgar, David. *How Plays Work*. London: Nick Hern, 2010.

[Copies from Downs, William M., and Lou Anne Wright. *Playwriting: From Formula to Form*. San Diego: Wadsworth. 1997 and other handouts]

By decision of the faculty in the School of Theatre and Dance, the following statement is included on all departmental syllabi: *Since production is the laboratory for all theatre courses, attendance at all mainstage Department of Theatre and Dance productions is required of students enrolled in classes with the following prefix designations: THE, TPA, TPP, ORI. Critiques of and/or responses to these productions may be required. Attendance at all related events is encouraged.*

Students are encouraged to bring computers to the classroom in order to take notes and find online references. Students are STRONGLY discouraged from using their computers for social networking during class. I acknowledge that we live in a connected world, but please turn off cell phones during class.

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

"Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>."

