

Playwriting Workshop (TPP 4600)

Fall 2021 – McCarty A 1142

T/Th 9:35am – 11:30am

Professor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
Office Phone: (352) 273-0515
Office: McGuire Pavilion, Room #229 (2nd floor)
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:30 or by appointment.
Email: cmitchell@ufl.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This workshop is a structured environment where you will explore the craft of writing for the stage. For this semester (and hopefully beyond), you will all become practicing playwrights exploring the development of dramatic ideas. In this class, you will be encouraged to find your own voice with the understanding that theatre is a very practical and specific medium and some techniques work better than others. I am here to guide your work, not dictate or censor it. The overall course objective is the completion of a one-act play.

REQUIREMENTS

- You will be given writing assignments to complete in and out of class.
- Your midterm assignment will be to write a ten-minute play.
- Your final project in this course is the final draft of a one-act play, i.e., approximately 30 or more polished pages of dialogue and stage directions.

TEXTBOOK

Readings will come in the form of handouts.

EXPECTATIONS

- Every week, you will write a scene which will be read and discussed.
- You will be expected to participate as a reader. Although I fully understand that you may not be an actor, you should put in the same effort that you would want for your own material.
- The exposure of your writing to your peers is an essential part of the class. Since any project under development is vulnerable to criticism, it is absolutely crucial that your feedback remain as objective and constructive as possible. It is much more valuable than praise.
- An understanding that writing is rewriting.

ATTENDANCE

You can miss two unexcused classes without penalty. After two, any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- serious family emergencies
- special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- military obligation
- severe weather conditions

- participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Religious observances do not require documentation but you should inform me by the end of the second week of classes of any religious observances that will conflict with class attendance.

Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time. The first “unexcused” absence will result in a half letter grade (5%) deducted from the final grade. All additional “unexcused” absences will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

You are required to see three productions during the course of the semester. Be prepared to discuss them in class. 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.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) and wish to discuss accommodations, contact me as soon as possible. If you have a learning disability that has NOT been documented, please contact the DRC immediately.

GRADING

I grade ongoing work on progress, i.e., from the first draft to the last. I look for effort, imagination, effectiveness, and if you have addressed the demands of the assignment.

Participation	20%
Writing Assignments	40%
10-minute play	10%
Final play (incl. drafts)	30%

A 93-100	C 73-76
A- 90-92	C- 70-72
B+ 87-89	D+ 67-69
B 83-86	D 63-66
B- 80-82	D- 60-63
C+ 77-79	E 59-

AVAILABILITY

If you have something you want to discuss with me, feel free to call me or stop by during my office hours. You are never “bothering” me. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, see me before or after class and we will come up with another time to meet.

COVID-19

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details

on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information. If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

HONOR CODE

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” ***If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class.*** Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

EVALUATIONS

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/>.