

Playwriting Workshop (TPP 4600)

Fall 2025

Tues 10:40am-11:30pm & Thurs 10:40am-12:35am

Constans G12

Professor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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Office: McGuire Pavilion, Room #229 (2nd floor)
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 11:30-1:30 or by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This workshop is a structured environment where you will explore the craft of writing for the stage. 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 complete a ten-minute play.
- Your final project will be 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

- To attend every class and be on time.
- To write (or rewrite) a scene every week that will be read and discussed.
- You will participate as a reader/performer. 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.
- To give objective and constructive feedback. The exposure of your writing to your peers is an essential part of the class. Feedback is much more valuable than praise. Writing is rewriting.

ATTENDANCE

You can miss two unexcused classes without penalty. The first “unexcused” absence will result in a half letter grade (5%) deducted from your final grade. All additional “unexcused” absences will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade.

The following absences are excused:

- illness (w/ doctor's note)
- 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 (not Rec Sports) 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 your class attendance.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

You are required to see all SOTD productions during the course of the semester. Watching theatre is an important source of inspiration. Be prepared to discuss the shows in class. By decision of the faculty in the School of Theatre and Dance, the following statement is included in 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 whether 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.

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 plagiarize material, i.e., submit someone else’s work (including AI generated material), 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/>.