

THEA-2400: PLAYWRITING

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: THEA-2400 : Playwriting

Board of Trustees:

November 2020

Academic Term:

Fall 2021

Subject Code

THEA - Theatre Arts

Course Number:

2400

Title:

Playwriting

Catalog Description:

Preparation and analysis of short scripts for the stage.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I or THEA-1010 Theatre Appreciation or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

A. Write a one act play for the stage.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Examine the significance of drama in society and its purpose.
2. Compare and contrast between the major dramatic genres.
3. Express creative dramatic changes through individual character.
4. Demonstrate how to acquire a copyright.

Course Outcome(s):

B. Analyze scripts and critique on-stage productions.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Appraise scripts for quality of writing and performance capabilities.
2. Appraise stage performances for their dramatic interpretation of the script.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Analysis of performance texts (scripts)
2. Stage production critiques
3. One Act play script

Course Content Outline:

1. Dramatic Genres
 - a. Tragedy
 - b. Comedy
 - c. Melodrama
 - d. Docudrama
 - e. Tragicomedy
2. Elements of drama
 - a. Plot
 - b. Character
 - c. Diction
 - d. Thought
 - e. Sound
 - f. Spectacle
3. Source Ideas
 - a. Person or character
 - b. Place
 - c. Incident
 - d. Conceptual
 - e. Situational
 - f. Informational
 - g. Adaptation
4. Point of view
 - a. Expressed value
 - b. Attitude
 - c. Store of knowledge
5. Scenario
 - a. Working title
 - b. Previous action
 - c. Beat - present physical action
 - d. Beat - present psychological action
 - e. Purpose of beat
 - f. Cause of beat change
6. Dialogue
 - a. Text
 - b. Subtext
 - c. Thought
 - d. Unity
 - e. Suspense
7. Copywriting a Play
 - a. U.S. Copyright
 - b. Writers Guild of America

Resources

Robert Lee Brewer. *Writer's Market*. 99th. New York: Random House, 2020.

Ayckbourn, Alan. *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Castagno, Paul C. *New Playwriting Strategies: A Language-Based Approach to Playwriting*. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Cole, Toby, ed. *Playwrights on Playwriting: From Ibsen to Ionesco*. Lanham, MD: Rowman Littlefield, 2001.

Johnson, Claudia Hunter. *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect*. 5th edition. Boston: Focal Press, 2020.

Smiley, Sam. *Playwriting: The Structure of Action*. 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005.

Theatre Communications Group. *Dramatist Sourcebook*. 26th. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2010.

The Dramatist Guild. *The Dramatist: The Journal of the Dramatists Guild, Inc.* New York, 2019. quarterly.

Jeffries, Stephen. *Playwriting: Structure, Character, How and What to Write*. London: Nick Hern Books, 2020.

Daly, Timothy. *21st Century Playwriting, A Manual of Contemporary Techniques*. Hanover, NH : A Smith and Kraus Book, 2019.

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