

THFM 3701-001 (6 credit hours)

PLAYWRITING II

FW 2018-19
MW: 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm
Room OT09

Instructor: Brian Drader
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Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will build on the work done in Playwriting I. It will focus on the creation of a full-length play (90-120 minutes in length), from conception through development to completion of a first or second draft. Special attention will be given to the creation of stories and characters sufficiently complex to carry a play of this length. The course will begin by examining how various contemporary Canadian playwrights have met the challenges of sustaining a full-length play, while investigating various forms and styles. The majority of the classes through the first and second term will be devoted to writing exercises, and reading and discussing the students' work-in-progress.

TEXT

Modern Canadian Plays, Volume II edited by Jerry Wasserman

GRADING

Extended pitch (written and oral)	
Individual dates TBA (Oct. 15th, 17th, & 22nd)	15%
Outline or Rough Draft (due in class Monday, Dec. 3rd)	25%
Completed Draft of Full Length Play (due in class Wednesday, April 3rd)	50%
Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Participation includes preparation for seminars; curiosity, attentiveness and contributions in discussions; and insight into and respect for the work, risks, and creative process of one's peers.

Student writing assignments will be assessed for content, and specifically for comprehension of concepts as discussed in class and/or in feedback and dramaturgical sessions. Criteria for your creative writing and pitches will include a willingness to take risks; to vigorously pursue one's vision and voice as a dramatist; to explore the ideas and preoccupations at the core of one's work with sincerity and passion; to be able to communicate your vision and ideas clearly.

The full-length play will be assessed in equal parts for **Clarity** (of story, of given circumstances, of arguments), **Character** (vitality, viability, consistency, authenticity), **Vision** (ambition, originality, breadth and reach of ideas) and **Quality of Writing** (rhythm, style, voice, tone).

This class depends on full participation. Unexcused absences not due to medical or other legitimate reasons will lead to deductions in the final mark. Students who miss 5 classes without a legitimate reason will have 5% of their final mark deducted. After having missed 5 classes, each missed class will result in a further deduction in the final mark of 2%.

Late Assignments will **NOT** be accepted.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA 4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA 2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA 4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA 4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA 3.5	F	below 50%	GPA 0.0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA 3.0			

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Please note – The schedule below will adjust to respond in particular to the curiosities and needs of the students and their individual journeys and work-in-progress.

Sept. 5th – Course introduction & overview, and determine weekly play reading assignments through to Oct. 3rd.

Sept. 10th to Oct. 3rd – Classes will focus on the plays from *Modern Canadian Plays Volume II* (discussing one or two plays per class), as well as discussion and exercises geared towards developing the first pitches, due after the 1st term reading week.

Oct. 15th to 22nd – Extended play pitches, two students per class.

For the rest of the first term and the second term, we will be focusing on student writing-in-progress, feedback and discussion, and assignments for further development. Writing exercises and points of investigation will be used throughout both terms to generate material and to respond to individual needs and curiosities.

Important dates –

Wednesday, Sept. 5th – First class of fall term

Oct. 8th thru 14th – Thanksgiving & Fall Reading Week

Monday, Dec. 3rd – Last class of fall term

Monday, Jan. 7th – First class of winter term

Feb. 17th to 23rd – Winter Reading Week & Louis Riel Day

Wednesday, April 3rd – Last class of winter term

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 19th (Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, playwright and arts administrator), Oct 17th, Nov 14th, Jan 16th, Feb 27th, Mar 13th. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors is optional but highly recommended.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

2018 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Monday, September 10, 2018, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting, tentatively scheduled for Mon Sept 17, 12:30-1:20 pm, Room OT10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals, (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin September 4, 2018 and end April 5, 2019 (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term).

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.