

THFM 3701-050 (6 credit hours)

PLAYWRITING II

FW 2020_21
MW: 17:30 to 18:45
On Line Course (Zoom)

Instructor: Brian Drader
Office: 4T06
Phone: n/a
Email: b.drader@uwinnipeg.ca
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 two act play, 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 selected 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.

Attending or viewing the U. of W. Theatre Department season shows is compulsory, in whatever live or digital form they may take, as we will be discussing the 'play to stage' principals of each.

TEXT

Modern Canadian Plays, Volume II, 5th edition, edited by Jerry Wasserman

Please note - 5th edition, **Volume II**. The edition we'll be using includes the following plays; *Polygraph, 7 Stories, Never Swim Alone, The Glace Bay Miner's Museum, Counter Offence, Problem Child, Harlem Duet, Street Of Blood, The Shape of a Girl, Tempting Providence, Scorched, The Adventures of Ali & Ali and the axes of Evil, Age of Arousal, Bioboxes, The Edward Curtis Project, & Kim's Convenience.*

Please note that due to COVID-19 circumstances, these texts will not be available through the University. All of these texts can be ordered online from retail and publishing outlets (Amazon, The Book Depository, McNally Robinson), and some are available in digital form.

GRADING

Extended pitch (written and oral)

Individual dates TBC (Oct. 19th, 21th, 26 th & 28th)	15%
Outline or Rough Draft (due Dec. 7th)	25%
Completed Draft of Full Length Play (due April 5th)	50%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

A note re: email

Students have the responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg email addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors. All emails to Professor Drader must be sent to the following email address: b.drader@uwinnipeg.ca. Professor Drader will check this account daily and aim to respond within 24 hours. Please note that Professor Drader does not regularly check Nexus mail.

With the reality of on-line classes and the reliance on technology, there will be flexibility around attendance and participation. The goal will be to work with students to make sure their access needs are met. The instructor will work with students if frequent absenteeism or lateness becomes disruptive and explore solutions if the challenges are due to the limitations of remote learning. Timely and thorough communication with the instructor is essential. Unexcused absences not due to medical or other legitimate reasons will lead to a deduction in the participation mark. Participation also includes preparation for seminars; curiosity, attentiveness and contributions in discussions; a personal investment in one's storytelling; 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).

All written assignments must be submitted in PDF form to b.drader@uwinnipeg.ca. 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.

This course is designed to pivot between online and in-person classes, as needed, but please assume that the class will be delivered online until and if University of Winnipeg guidelines allows otherwise.

Sept. 9th – Review online protocol, introductions, course introduction & overview, and select weekly play reading assignments through to Oct. 6th, as well as establishing who will present each play. Review play reading worksheet.

Sept. 14th to Oct. 7th – Classes will focus on plays from *Modern Canadian Plays Volume II, 5th Edition* (each student presents one play, followed by discussion, one play per class), as well as discussion and exercises geared towards developing the pitches, to be presented after the 1st term reading week.

Oct. 12th to 16th – Reading week.

Oct. 19th to 28th – 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, reading material, 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. 9th – First class of fall term

Oct. 12th thru 16th – Thanksgiving & Fall Reading Week

Wednesday, Nov. 11th – Remembrance Day, no class.

Tuesday, Dec. 8th – Make-up class for Nov. 11th, and last class of fall term

Wednesday, Jan. 6th – First class of winter term

Feb. 15th to 19th – Winter term Reading Week & Louis Riel Day

Monday, April 6th – Last class of winter term

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT

Theatre & Film are communal art forms 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, meetings or shoots both within and outside of class times; and, in short, 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.

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. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending on-campus lectures and labs. Exposure to perfumes and other **scented products (such as lotion)** can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

During the FW terms, the Department of Theatre and Film presents a series of six lectures held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20); in 20-21, these will be presented online (by Zoom or other platform). 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."

The first Lecture will take place at 12:30 pm Wednesday, September 23rd, and features Yolanda Bonnell, a performer and playwright of Ojibwe and South Asian descent, from Fort William First Nation Indian Reserve in Thunder Bay, ON. Now based in Toronto, Yolanda graduated from Humber College's theatre performance program and was named one of NOW Magazine's artists to watch in Summerworks in 2016.

Further guests and dates will be confirmed in September.

Normally, attendance at **EVERY** lecture is mandatory for all Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in THFM-3110-001 Screen Acting, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II, and any other appropriate 3000-level course being taught in the term.

For the unusual circumstances of 2020-21, attendance is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for all Honours students, 3000-level THFM majors, potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors.

Dates and delivery method will be confirmed in September. Please see our department website in the Fall for information.

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. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This September, the Assembly will likely happen via Zoom. Date and delivery method will be confirmed in in early September. Please see our department website for information.

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. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams**, **Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and

24/7 (an event in 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 their meetings, every second Monday from 12:30-13:20 pm (by Zoom or other platform in 2020-21). 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

To safeguard the health of the UWinnipeg community — and support public health efforts — during the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the UW campus is closed until further notice. All academic instruction and evaluation will continue through alternate delivery.

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is CLOSED as per Campus policy. Access for students attending in-person labs in our building will be arranged as necessary. All studios and labs are locked 24/7.

NOTE: It is **MANDATORY** that anyone attending labs or rehearsals in the building carry an ID card/student card to verify they are allowed to be on campus. If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you will be evicted**.

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

RECORDING ON-LINE CLASSES

The instructor may choose to record a zoom or video class if there are online connectivity issues, absences, or to post to Nexus for later review.

If a lecture is recorded, students will be given notice (via the course outline or on a case-by-case basis) that their personal information may be captured; informed of how long the recording will be retained; and whether the recording will be used for evaluation of any kind. Students will also be given the option to turn off their cameras/microphones and use pseudonyms to remain anonymous (except where class participation is required).

Students with concerns or who wish to seek alternate arrangements may discuss the matter with the instructor.

Access to recordings will be limited to the academic staff, students, and others with a legitimate need. Recordings containing student personal information will not be posted publicly, but only on UW-approved servers.

No student is allowed to disseminate recordings outside of the class or post recordings publicly. Access to the recordings will be limited to the instructor and the students.

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* and *Access Card/Building Use Policy*.

Room bookings at the ACTF are suspended until at least December 31, 2020 and possibly longer. However, when we are able to allow students to book rooms again, links to *Room Booking Instructions* and electronic *Online Room Booking Form* can also be found on our department website. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

- Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>.
- Students should check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses daily as this is the most direct way instructors and the University will contact students, particularly during the current remote learning environment.
- 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, they should withdraw from this course immediately.
- Unless necessary for accessing class, cellular phones should 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.

- 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. ***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.

- **Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity:** Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the “Regulations and Policies” found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections **8 (“Student Discipline”)**, **9 (“Senate Appeals”)**, and **10 (“Grade Appeals”)**.

Please note the importance of maintaining academic integrity, and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even “unintentional” plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>) is a form of academic misconduct.

Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. More detailed information can be found here: Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>.

- **Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, notes on whiteboards, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy.

Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor’s intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy (https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf).

- **Research Ethics.** Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>.
- **Privacy.** Students should be familiar with their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy->

[notice.html](#)), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)

- **Respectful Learning Environment.** All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used.

Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., *Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>; *Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy* at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>) could be considered “non-academic” misconduct.

More detailed information can be found here:

Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures:
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

And <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf> .

- 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>

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 17, 2020 for Fall courses which begin in September 2020 and end in December 2020;
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 23, 2021 for Fall/Winter courses which begin in September 2020 and end in April 2021;
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 16, 2021 for Winter courses which begin in January 2021 and end in April 2021.

Students are encouraged to speak to the Instructor before withdrawing to explore other options.

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