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THR 491-001  NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT
Spring Semester, 2018
TR 2 – 3:15 pm

Required text: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This innovative class will join advanced playwrights, actors
and directors in the development of new plays.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

This course open to writers who have already completed the Introduction to Playwriting
class or by permission, and to advanced actors, directors and a stage manager by
permission only. The work will focus on the creation of a new full-length play from each
writer. The writers, actors and directors will work together on these original works from
inception to completion. The class periods will be used for the reading of new pages each
week and for discussion.

Outside of the classroom, the playwrights will write their scripts. The actors will focus on
developing the characters they will perform in each new play at the end of the semester.
The directors will work on the texts with the writers and actors, and they will also direct
the final staged readings. The written work will require one full-length new play from
each writer, critiques and journals from the actors and analysis and critiques from the
directors. The directors will be using the same guidelines they follow in advanced
directing classes. The stage manager will submit a prompt book of the final readings.

The writers will bring in at least 10 new pages each week to add to what they have
already written. They will turn in copies of that work and those pages will be given a
written critique from the instructor, the other writers, the directors and the actors. These
critiques are part of the class work and must be done in order to complete the grades in
the course. The actors will focus on the character development in each play as they build
the characters to perform at the end of the semester. The directors (in consultation with
the writer and the instructor) will assign characters as soon as the writers start their work
so that the actors have an entire semester to work on their characters in each play. Actors
must keep a journal about each character they are playing. The directors will focus on the
plays from a director's point of view and plan how to present the play in a staged reading.
The writers will focus on the writing of their plays and the critiques of the other writers’
works. The stage manager will keep track of all the script changes. (80% of the class time
for reading and discussion of the plays.)
This will require a great deal of work outside of class, with the class periods used for reading the new pages out loud and discussion. At the end of the semester, a simple stage reading of each new play will be presented. The cast of characters in each new play should number five, but actors can also double in several roles. This is open for discussion. The goal is for the writers to concentrate on writing, the actors on acting and the directors on directing.

In addition, the class will also be working on how to do a staged reading. This will require some extra rooms and out-of-class rehearsal times at the end of the semester. (20% of the class time for rehearsal and performance.)

**The final project will be the writing, acting and directing of a dramatic work of no more than 80 typed pages.** The reading order of the class work and final plays will be determined by a lottery.

There are no written exams in this course. All written critiques on plays should be sent to the instructor on the next class day following the reading of the pages (to be discussed). You will be graded lower for late or missing critiques. The final play and its presentation will serve a final exam for all involved. The project must be completed on the date assigned. This will allow for all of the final plays to be rehearsed for the staged reading, read aloud and for a short critique to follow.

**Grading will be based on the following:**

- Classroom participation and attendance 20%
- Critiques and journals 40%
- Final One-Act 40%

All class assignments (plays, journals and critiques) must be typed. The final plays must be typed in the form used for professional manuscripts. (This form will be covered in class.)

Hard copies of all work must be given to the instructor. Nothing submitted via email will be accepted (to be discussed regarding the critiques).

Students are advised not to fall behind on assignments. Projects are due on the date assigned. Late assignments will result in a lower grade. Tardiness will result in a lower grade.

All work must be original. Plagiarism or the use of any material that is not written by the enrolled student in the course will result in a failing grade in the entire course and disciplinary action.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT ATTENDANCE IS CRUCIAL TO THIS COURSE AND EXCESSIVE ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A LOWERING OF YOUR GRADE. A total of 7 excused and unexcused absences on a TR class will result in the student receiving a failing grade. In addition, excessive unexcused absences (over
two) will result in a lowering of your final grade. (See The Department Attendance Policy.)

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated and may constitute disruptive behavior under the student code of conduct.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) supported in this course:**
1. The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic.
2. The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical production.
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.
4. The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a work of theatre.
5. The student will be able to complete and document a major project as a stage manager, as a designer or technician, or as an actor or director, demonstrating advanced competence in the student’s specialty.
6. The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specialization(s).

**Student Learning Outcomes for this course (with supported PLOs):**

Students will be able to:
1. Analyze the structure and participate the creation of a play (1, 2, 3, 4),
2. Write, perform or direct a new play (2, 3, 5, 6)
3. Understand the process of creating a work for the theatre (1, 2, 3, 5, 6).

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or
ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Students with documented disabilities who need course adaptations or accommodations please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.