“When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses, for art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgement. The artists, however faithful to his personal vision of reality, becomes the last champion of the individual mind and sensibility against an intrusive society and an officious state. The great artist is thus a solitary figure. He has, as Frost said, "a lover's quarrel with the world." In pursuing his perceptions of reality he must often sail against the currents of his time. This is not a popular role.”

— John F. Kennedy

Credits: 3

Objectives: Introductory course in writing for the stage. Consists of a series of practical, short writing exercises in characterization, dialogue, plot, etc., culminating in a one-act play.
Prerequisite(s): ENG 261 or the following: ENG 132, THR 162 and THR 221

Required Texts:
The Elements of Playwriting, Second Edition 2nd Edition by Louis E. Catron and Norman A. Bert
Other readings will be made available by your instructor

Graded components:
1) Exams (1) 20%
2) Starts 20%
3) First Draft Workshop 30%
3) One Act Play 20%
4) Participation 10%

Final Grading: (0-59) F (60-69) D (69.5-79) C (79.5-89) B (89.5-100) A

Exams: One exam will be given covering the lectures and reading material. No makeup exams are given for unexcused absences. (See “Attendance” for what qualifies as an excused absence.) Exams will include multiple choice/short answer questions, and some writing.

Starts: Most class periods will include a writing prompt. I will take these up at the end of class, and return them to you the following class with feedback. Please write legibly.

First Draft Workshop: By the time we reach midterm you will have chosen a writing start to use as the basis of a One Act Play. This is a play that will range between 15-30 pages and include one arcing plotline. You will be assigned a date during the second half of the semester where the first draft of your play will be read aloud and receive feedback from the class. You will be graded on your preparedness and participation in the feedback process.
**One Act Play:** This is at least a second draft of the play workshopped in class. Plays must be typed and utilize correct formatting. You will receive a rubric on how these are graded by midterm.

**Participation:** Participation in this course includes completing reading assignments on time, being willing and able to discuss playwriting topics in class, and both giving and receiving feedback on written work from instructor and classmates. We will discuss the rules for feedback in class.

**Participation/Absences/Tardies:** As stated by School policy: **Seven (7) absences in a T/TH class or ten (10) absences in a MWF class will result in an automatic failure of the course.** Only religious holidays, sponsored school events, and documented medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences upon the instructor’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he is tardy or arrives after attendance is taken. Instructors will establish other guidelines regarding attendance and tardiness and their effect on grading for their classes.

**Course Work:** All course work must be done and turned in as indicated by the calendar or discussed in class. This includes tests, quizzes, papers, and other assignments. Tests and quizzes cannot be made up without an excused absence. Students who arrive in class after quizzes or exams have been completed may not take the exam/quiz. Additionally, once the exams/quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in their work.

*Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor in advance of accommodations and exams to arrange accommodations for that disability.*

**Classroom Expectations:**

*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Recording lectures is not allowed unless arranged in advance.
2. Cell phones should be set to silent or turned off before class begins. Absolutely NO use of cell phones is allowed in class unless approved in advance or requested by instructor.
3. Use of a cell phone (or other electronic device) during a quiz or exam will result in a grade of zero.
4. During class there will be no reading of outside materials, listening to MP3 devices, or wearing ear phones/ear buds.
5. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
6. Students who sleep or give the appearance of sleeping in class will be counted absent (unexcused).
7. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

**Diversity**

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.

**Academic Integrity**

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/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

You are expected to be in full compliance with both the SFA policy and the School of Theatre policy:
SFA policy: 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.

School of Theatre policy: The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Please Note: I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. Hence, I will not be hovering over your shoulder during exams, etc.. However, this trust should not be confused for a lack of vigilance on my part. If you are caught, I will consider it a violation of personal trust and will not hesitate to penalize you to the full extent possible.

Additional Information

If you have a disability: 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/.

Religious observance: If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.