



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Drama 671 Selected Problems in Playwriting I
Fall 2021

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Clem Martini CH D224 martini@ucalgary.ca By appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	CHD003 Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 – 11:50
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	The Blunt Playwright may be referenced throughout the semester. In addition, a number of plays will either be assigned for reading between classes, or will be read and studied in class including: Richard the Third – William Shakespeare Mother Courage – Bertolt Brecht – David Hare translation, available on-line through library Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller The Adventures of a Black Girl In Search of God – Djanet Sears Fences – August Wilson Lysistrata – Aristophanes -://www.gutenberg.org/files/7700/7700-h/7700-h.htm How I Learned to Drive – Paula Vogel Night, Mother – Marsha Norman Ti-Jean and his Brothers – Derek Walcott Medea – Euripides (Diane Rayor translation) Brothel # 9 -Anusree Roy The Shape of a Girl - Joan MacLeod
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences it is recommended that students to have reliable access to the following technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates; • A current and updated web browser; • Webcam (built-in or external); • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone; • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; • Broadband internet connection. Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
Prerequisites	A prior knowledge and advanced understanding of dramatic structure and character development.
Course description	This seminar-styled course will examine seminal theatrical works with an eye to dissecting, detecting and determining the characteristics and functions of protagonists in dramatic literature. Students will be expected to read plays and critical works of plays, apply analysis, and formulate theories. Paralleling and complementing this, the course will employ a problem-solving model to examine the process of playwriting. Students will craft the first act of a full length play and will be expected to bring samples of their works-in-progress to class for scrutiny, critique, and continued development. The course will expose students to challenges they can expect to encounter in future writing endeavors, and will allow them to examine solutions utilized by accomplished playwrights of the past and present.

Course learning outcomes	<p>Students can be expected to further develop those skills associated with writing for the theatre: the ability to recognize and generate specific voice, a distinct style, arresting gesture and image, structural coherence and sharp dialogue.</p> <p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply more thoughtful analysis of characters in plays. 2. Be able to isolate the dramatic arc of the protagonist and understand how it is connected to plot and dramatic tension. 3. Be able to create rich, well developed protagonists. 																										
Course schedule	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 7 – Introductions, discussion of procedures.</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 9 – Pitch session</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 14 – Seminar Presentation 1, A & B & C</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 16 – Seminar Presentation 1, D & E & F</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 21 – Follow up discussion & examination of escalation</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 23 – Outline of Project D & E & F</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Outline of Project A & B & C</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 30 – No Class</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 5 – Scene One of Project D & E & F</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 7 – Scene One of Project A & B & C</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 12 – Scene Two of Project D & E & F</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 14 – Scene Two of Project A & B & C</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 19 – Critical Essay D & E & F</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 21 – Critical Essay A & B & C</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 26 – Follow up discussion, and exercise - Do it wrong</p> <p>Thursday, Oct. 28 – Revised outline D & E & F</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 2 - Revised outline A & B & C</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 4 – Visiting Artist</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 9 – Reading Week – No Class</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 11 – Reading Week – No Class</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Act One A & B</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 18 – Act One C & D</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 23 – Act One E & F</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 25 – Follow up discussion</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 30 – Revised Scene A & B & C</p> <p>Thursday, Dec. 2 – Revised Scene D & E & F</p> <p>Tuesday, Dec. 7 – Consult where required</p> <p>Thursday, Dec. 9 – Final class – Turn in Final Assignment</p>																										
Assessment components	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. SEMINAR PRESENTATION ONE: Sept. 14 and 16</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10 percent</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">An oral presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. Selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 750 word summary handed in.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. OUTLINE OF PROJECT – Sept 23 and Sept. 28</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">An outline of the play that will be written. A synopsis, brief character description, and scene break down with significant actions/conflict should be included. 1000- 1250 words.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. SCENE ONE OF PROJECT – Oct 5 and 7</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">A scene from the play that is being developed. The scene needn't be the first scene of the play chronologically.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. SCENE TWO OF PROJECT– Oct 12 and Oct 14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">A second scene from the developing play.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. CRITICAL ESSAY– Oct. 19 and 21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">A more detailed written presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. An oral presentation as well, from the written document, including selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 1500 - 2000 words.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. REVISED OUTLINE - Oct. 28 and Nov. 2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">An outline with revisions of play, and a page summary.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. FIRST ACT – Nov. 16 , 18 and 23</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> </tr> </table>	1. SEMINAR PRESENTATION ONE: Sept. 14 and 16	10 percent	An oral presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. Selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 750 word summary handed in.		2. OUTLINE OF PROJECT – Sept 23 and Sept. 28	10	An outline of the play that will be written. A synopsis, brief character description, and scene break down with significant actions/conflict should be included. 1000- 1250 words.		3. SCENE ONE OF PROJECT – Oct 5 and 7	10	A scene from the play that is being developed. The scene needn't be the first scene of the play chronologically.		4. SCENE TWO OF PROJECT– Oct 12 and Oct 14	10	A second scene from the developing play.		5. CRITICAL ESSAY– Oct. 19 and 21	15	A more detailed written presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. An oral presentation as well, from the written document, including selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 1500 - 2000 words.		6. REVISED OUTLINE - Oct. 28 and Nov. 2	5	An outline with revisions of play, and a page summary.		7. FIRST ACT – Nov. 16 , 18 and 23	15
1. SEMINAR PRESENTATION ONE: Sept. 14 and 16	10 percent																										
An oral presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. Selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 750 word summary handed in.																											
2. OUTLINE OF PROJECT – Sept 23 and Sept. 28	10																										
An outline of the play that will be written. A synopsis, brief character description, and scene break down with significant actions/conflict should be included. 1000- 1250 words.																											
3. SCENE ONE OF PROJECT – Oct 5 and 7	10																										
A scene from the play that is being developed. The scene needn't be the first scene of the play chronologically.																											
4. SCENE TWO OF PROJECT– Oct 12 and Oct 14	10																										
A second scene from the developing play.																											
5. CRITICAL ESSAY– Oct. 19 and 21	15																										
A more detailed written presentation exploring the protagonist of the play and how the protagonist functions within the play. An oral presentation as well, from the written document, including selections chosen from script to illustrate strategies employed by playwright. 1500 - 2000 words.																											
6. REVISED OUTLINE - Oct. 28 and Nov. 2	5																										
An outline with revisions of play, and a page summary.																											
7. FIRST ACT – Nov. 16 , 18 and 23	15																										

	<p>Initial draft of first act of play. 8. REVISED SCENE - Nov. 30 & Dec 2 5 8 REVISED DRAFT OF ACT ONE – Dec. 9 15 Final draft of first act of play. 8. PARTICIPATION 5</p>																																				
	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments</u> Assignments should be turned in on time. Each assignment should be prefaced with a title page containing the student’s name and title of the assignment. Pages of the assignment must be numbered. Hard copy is required.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing is particularly important in a course of this kind. It is expected that all assignments will demonstrate attention to dramatic structure and character development, and will be formatted properly and carefully edited.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Attendance and Participation</u> As the discussion and workshopping of the materials in this course has relevance to all students of the class, regular attendance and thoughtful engagement in discussions will be considered an essential component. Absences and late attendance will have impact upon your participation mark.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for Formatting Assignments</u> Assignments should be double-spaced, be in Times New Roman and conform to the professional standards of the written form. Scripts should adopt templates outlined in The Blunt Playwright.</p> <p><u>Late Assignments</u> Assignments turned in late without previously conferring and receiving permission will receive a grade-point deduction.</p>																																				
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Grading System and Transcripts of the Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="493 1268 1489 1835"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Grade Point Value</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Outstanding performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>3.70</td> <td>Approaching excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>3.30</td> <td>Exceeding good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>3.00</td> <td>Good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>2.70</td> <td>Approaching good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+</td> <td>2.30</td> <td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>2.00</td> <td>Satisfactory performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C-</td> <td>1.70</td> <td>Approaching satisfactory performance.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+</td> <td>1.30</td> <td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s The Faculty of Law utilizes a "D" grade that does not carry weight in calculation of the cumulative grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in G</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific 	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance	A	4.00	Excellent performance	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance	B	3.00	Good performance	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s The Faculty of Law utilizes a "D" grade that does not carry weight in calculation of the cumulative grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in G
Grade	Grade Point Value	Description																																			
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance																																			
A	4.00	Excellent performance																																			
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance																																			
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance																																			
B	3.00	Good performance																																			
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance																																			
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance																																			
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance																																			
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.																																			
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s																																			
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same s The Faculty of Law utilizes a "D" grade that does not carry weight in calculation of the cumulative grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in G																																			

	undergraduate faculty promotional policy.
Guidelines for Zoom Sessions	<p>Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.</p> <p>To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.</p> <p>The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.</p> <p>Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>Recording Zoom class sessions is at the discretion of the instructor; missing a Zoom class is equivalent to missing an in-person class. The instructor <i>may</i> record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session – but this is not a requirement. Should an instructor choose to record a class session, students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p>
Academic Accommodation	<p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.</p>
Academic integrity, plagiarism	Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding

	<p>conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf and https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</p>
Internet and electronic communication device	<p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf</p>
Intellectual Property	<p>Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.</p>
Copyright	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.</p>
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	<p>Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.</p>
Student Support	<p>Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</p>