

Carleton University

Winter 2023

Department of English

Course: ENGL 3905A: Topics in Performance –
CREATING STORY FOR THEATRE

Prerequisites: 3rd year Standing or of Permission of the Department

Preclusions: N/A

Day/Time: Thursday 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall
Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (CDCC)
355 Cooper ST, Ottawa, ON. K2P 0G8

Instructor: Roger Schultz

Email: rogerschultz@cunet.carleton.ca

Office: TBA

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Important note:

For information on deadlines for withdrawal from courses, please consult the Academic Year section of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>).

Carleton University is located on the unceded territory of the Algonquin People

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Playwrighting is the genesis, the ground zero, of any theatrical production process - and it is the playwright, so visited upon by the ‘muses,’ who first emerges compelled by these impulses to initiate story and forge it into a script; a blueprint, that will ultimately guide the director, the actors, the designers, the technicians, the production process itself, to culminate in an opening night performance, live onstage before a participating audience.

In this beginning playwrighting course, led by and through the perspective and experience of a Theatre Designer, novice playwrights will be introduced to and explore a variety of fundamental processes and essential components to consider when forging a script for stage from their own story impulses. Through a variety of targeted exercises, activities, sharing and discussion, students will support each other in explorations of sourcing, building character, dynamic dialogue, dramatic action, structure, formatting, environment as story, and critical feedback. The course will culminate in an extended final project, a completed first draft of a ‘Short Short,’ an original 10-minute, one act play.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will have addressed, be aware of and be able to:

1. Recognize the dynamic and philosophical differences in presentation and writing story for stage, film/media, or prose.

2. Have a beginning understanding of the theatre, its conventions, its space and how it functions to facilitate story.
3. Develop a rudimentary understanding of Directing and Design and of utilizing visceral, visual, and sonic tools in telling stories onstage.
4. Attune to inspirational forces and generative thought processes in the recognition of potential fodder for story.
5. Develop an understanding of strategy, approach, and methodology in generating a play script.
6. Properly format a play script.
7. Develop an awareness of basic dramatic structure.
8. Develop skills in creating dynamic character, dialogue, plot and dramatic action.
9. Be able to beneficially engage and support in dramaturgical endeavor for others; to accept and process the dramaturgical endeavor of others for ones-self.
10. Have fun.

ASSIGNED READING:

Note: In order to keep current and successfully move through the progression of the term, you will be expected to have read the assigned text passages and readings prior to the next class. The reading is in place for the student's benefit to help prepare, introduce, reaffirm, clarify and embellish the content covered in classroom discussion and exercises.

COURSE TEXT:

**The Blunt Playwright: An Introduction to Playwriting –
by Clem Martini (second edition)**

Playwrights Canada Press – Toronto, On.
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AD-HOC REQUIRED READINGS:

Available online through Brightspace and downloadable as pdf's (I think)

- Week 3: Aristotle 6 - TBA
- Week 8: Critiques and Dramaturgy - TBA
- Week 9: Design - TBA
- Week 10: Directing - TBA

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING:

Hamlet – Shakespeare

(http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl)
(<http://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/hamlet/download/0>)

Glengary Glen Ross – David Mamet

(<http://www.dailyscript.com/scripts/glengarry.html>)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Composition Handbook (e.g., *The Broadview Guide to Writing - Student Edition*) This text will help you develop academic writing skills throughout your university experience.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Note: This is not necessarily a comprehensive calendar. It is subject to change on a per class bases and may be updated with additions or deletions over the course of the term:

Date	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due	Reading Schedule	A7-Final Project A Short Short
Wk1 January 12	Intro / syllabus / Theatre Space/ Creation & Sourcing	A1-BeginJournal1 A2-Sourcing A7-Short Short Shakespeare-H	N/A	Martini: Pg 1-36 SHAKESPERE-H	-Martini:Pg228-247 -Begin search for inspired story you need to write.
Wk2 January 19	Great Characters /Captivating Dialogue	A3-Character = Dialogue	A2-Sourcing	Martini: Pg 157 - 173 SHAKESPEARE-H	Have play idea nailed down
Wk3 January 26	Formatting Aristotle's 6 / Plot Structure			Martini: Pg 39-77 Aristotal's 6 SHAKESPEARE-H	Story Abstract Char: list/bio Setting:time/place
Wk4 February 2	Act 1 - Great Beginnings / Strong Desires	A4-Fairytale Plotting	A3- C=D	Martini: Pg 95 - 116 SHAKESPEARE-H	
Wk5 February 9	Act 2 – Great Middles / Worthy Struggles			Martini: Pg 119 - 138 SHAKESPEARE-H	Rough plot points / outline – plot shape – scene breakdown
Wk6 February 16	Act 3 – Great Endings / Fulfilled Resolutn	A5-Mid-Term - take home exam A1-BeginJournal2	A1-J 1 A4-F P Shakespeare- H	Martini: Pg 141 - 154 SHAKESPEARE-H	Exploratory scenes, sketches, dialogue

Wk- 7 - February 20-24 - Winter Break – No Classes

Wk8 March 2	Design: Elements: set/costume/LX	A6-SWU Monologue Mamet-GG	A5-Mid-Term (@ Start of Class)	Martini: Pg 223-224 Design- Assigned reading: MAMET-GG	
Wk9 March 9	Dramaturgy Directing			Martini: Pg 251 – 252 Dramaturgy- Assigned reading: MAMET-GG	1 st Draft – peer dramaturgy
Wk10 March 16	Directing cont– Staging		A6-SWU Mono	Martini: Pg 174 - 178 Directing- Assigned reading: MAMET-GG	2 nd Draft – peer directing/ dramaturgy
Wk11 March 23	Play Anlyss - GG Open discussion		Mamet-GG		3rd Draft – peer dramaturgy
Wk12 March 30	In-Class Reading Presentation		A1-J 2		SS Reading grp 1
Wk13 April 6 Last class	In-Class Reading Presentation				SS Reading grp 2
Wk 14					

Apr 10 (Monday)	A-7: Final Project – Short-Short (10 Minute Play) Due by noon, 12:00 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023 – submitted on Brightspace
Wk15-16 Apr 17-28	Exams (N/A)

EVALUATION:

Evaluation in this course will be assessed on criteria outlined in the individual class assignments.

A 5% overall course grade is held in reserve for assessment which may be impacted by inattention to spelling, grammar, punctuation, timeliness of assignment, class engagement or participation.

A Ruberic (*TBA*) will be used to evaluate all assignments eexcept for the Mid-Term Exam.

All assignments must be completed for eligibility to pass the course. Failure to hand in all assignments may result in a grade of “F.”

Assignments are to be submitted either as a hard copy or electronically (on Brightspace) as per the criteria outlined on each individual assignment – please double check the submission format for accuracy to receive full grades.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all assignments are submitted accurately and on time. Keep a backup copy that can be produced upon request in the event of a lost or misplaced assignment.

GRADE SCALE:

A+	90 – 100%	B+	77 – 79 %	C+	67 – 69%	D+	57 – 59%
A	85 – 89%	B	73 – 76%	C	63 – 66%	D	53 – 56%
A-	80 – 84 %	B-	70 – 72%	C-	60 – 62%	D-	50 – 52%
F	0 – 49%						

Standing in a course is determined by the Course Instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. Grades submitted by the Instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

***** Please note Asterix below.**

EXTENSIONS / LATE POLICY:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the Class they are due on.

Upon the arrival of 12:00 a.m. on the morning of the Due Date, there will be no consideration of, or granting of any extensions unless so discussed with the instructor prior to the 12:00 a.m. day of deadline, and with reasonable cause.

In cases where illness prevents a student from submitting an assignment on the due date, a grace period of no more than 7 days will be granted, however, the instructor must be informed prior to the 12:00 a.m. day of deadline, as to there being an illness in consideration.

***With the exception of late assignments for which alternate arrangements have been made, all other late assignments will be penalized at a rate of **5% per day** to a maximum of 7 days (35%), after which the assignment will no longer be accepted and it is understood, that that assignment's grade is forfeited. Once an assignment's 12:00 a.m. day of due date has arrived, no discussion concerning extensions will be considered.

PLAGIARISM:

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH:

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC:

In classroom, in person learning has resumed at Carleton, and for this we are grateful as the richness of learning and the experience cultivated while amongst your peers cannot be duplicated in onscreen forums. Regardless, the pandemic continues and your vigilance is expected. Though no longer mandated, you are encouraged to remain masked while indoors, practice proper hand washing and oral expulsion etiquette, and to remain current in your vaccination regime. Though it is important to attend class, if you feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms associated with Covid 19, in consideration of your class mates do not share the illness (whatever that may be) and **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. Get a rapid test done to confirm. If so unable to attend class, you are to send an email to keep your instructor informed. Make sure to request class notes from a peer on what you have missed. If you have further questions about the material once you have seen a peer's notes, your instructor will be happy to answer them. You will not be penalized for an absence if you follow these steps.

Likely there will be difficulties that lie ahead as new conditions are negotiated. If you are having problems of any kind, do not hesitate to talk to me, I will endeavor to help guide you to find the resources you need for your success.

INFORMATION ON PANDEMIC MEASURES:

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are a number of actions you can take to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's symptom reporting protocols.

Masks: Carleton has paused its mandatory mask mandate as of June 25, 2022. Even though masks will no longer be mandatory, **we continue to strongly recommend masking when indoors**, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. For

more information, please visit <https://carleton.ca/covid19/policies-and-protocols/mask-policy/>.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1, 2022, to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520- 6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For

more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>