

Playwriting II THEA 4415
Fall 2017 – Martha Munro 105

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Tuesday and Thursday

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Course Description

THEA 4415 focuses on the theory and mechanics of traditional playwriting as well as the processes and skills of playwriting as a profession. Students will experience the writing, development and rehearsed reading of performance works.

Texts

Garrison, Gary. *A More Perfect 10*. Focus Publishing, Newberry MA: 2009.

You MUST bring a copy of your text to class!

Formatting

For the final version of the play to be submitted for UWG's production, make sure to leave a 1.5 margin on the left and a 2.0 on the right.

Strikes and Load-ins are REQUIRED for Theatre Majors. Your grade may be lowered by one letter grade if you fail to attend!

Performance REQUIRED – The Townsend Center for the Performing Arts – Tuesday – Sunday
Godspell September 21-Oct 1
The Scarlett Letter November 8-12// 14-17

Course Den

Available from UWG's main page www.westga.edu through the link Online Learning.
If you need help, contact distance@westga.edu or 678-839-6248 or go to the After Hours Helpdesk available 24 hrs a day/ 7 days a week - go to <http://help8.view.usg.edu> and click on Request Support.

Library: <http://www.westga.edu/~library/> or available through the Library link on www.westga.edu

Degree Program Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate skills in analyzing plays, using theatre technology, and conducting research. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the various means (acting, directing, designing, constructing, playwriting, etc.) through which a theatrical concept is realized. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of selected plays, theatrical conventions and theatrical movements important in the formation of the modern theatre

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will identify and employ the structural components of a play.
Students will create plays in the ten-minute format.
Students will develop plays that are suited for the theatre.
Students will describe how contemporary playwrights work in the theatre.

THEATRE MAJOR PARTICIPATION: A core component of being a theatre major is participation in company events, such as load-ins and strikes. Any theatre major not attending all required load-ins and

strikes and ushering at least one show during a semester will receive an academic penalty of -10% on their final grade for upper division THEA classes.

Student Responsibilities

- **Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.**
- Please turn off your cell phone for the duration of the class.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to participate.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes from a classmate.
- **Changes in the syllabus or schedule will be announced in class -- make sure you note these changes.**
- **Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned quizzes in a safe place.**
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible for completing your work. If you have any special needs or if there is anything I can do to assist you in succeeding in this course do not hesitate to let me know.
- Uphold the Academic Honor code as stated in the Undergraduate Catalogue.

Course Components

Deadlines are fixed! The D2L (Course Den) is opened ended, but you MUST post before the class period begins!

Quizzes (5%)

There are two quizzes given in class on *More Perfect Ten*. You will need the information in this text to help you on your playwriting journey!

Assignments (30%)

You will have reading and written assignments for each class, and often you will have an assignment during class. You need to POST the material on course den. We will read your assignment during class. If you are not there, you may only receive half credit for you assignment.

Ten Minute Plays (50%)

You will write five ten minute plays. Each play will be approximately ten minutes when read, be formatted properly, and have a beginning middle and end. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE IN CLASS PLAY READING TO RECEIVE CREDIT.**

Oral Reports (10%)

Students will research current trends in playwriting and present an 8-10 minute presentation.

Final Play Reading (5%)

On Tuesday, December 6th at 7PM in Martha Munro we will have a formal reading of your plays by actors who you select and rehearse.

GRADING SCALE

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59

SCHEDULE

DATE	In Class	Assignment and Deadlines – All work must be ready to read on Tuesday’s class!!!!!! You must be present in class to earn credit for the assignment. SUBMIT ALL WORK ON COURSE DEN
THR 8/10	Course Introduction Preview Assign: What’s in the Box In	
TUE 8/15	Quiz: Perfect Ten 1-34 Read What’s in the Box Review Assignment: Ripped from the Headlines	Perfect Ten: 1-34 Assignment: What’s in the Box?
THR 8/17	Discuss Perfect Ten & Really Cool Guy Read Ripped from the Headlines Preview Assignments: The Tornado	Assignment: Ripped from the Headlines
THU 8/22	Quiz Perfect Ten 34-68 Read The Tornado Preview: Contemporary Playwright Presentation	Assignment: The Tornado Perfect Ten 34-68
THR 8/24	Bring your Text to Class: Read the Fisherman Preview Assignment: Play One	
TUE 8/29	Read Play Once Preview Assignment: Fairy Tales	Play One
THR 8/31	Read Fairy Tales Preview Assignment The Image	Assignment: Fairy Tales
TUE 9/5	Read The Image Preview The Parade	Assignment: The Image
THR 9/7	Read the Parade Discuss Play Two	Assignment The Parade
TUE 9/12	Read Play Two Preview The Bake Off	Play Two
THR 9/14	Read The Bake Off Preview Assignment: The Promotion	Assignment: The Bake Off
TUE 9/19	Read The Promotion Preview Assignment: Historical Event	Assignment: The Promotion
THR 9/21	Read Historical Event Preview Assignment: My Pet Peeve	Assignment: Historical Event
TUE 9/26	Presentations	Contemporary Playwright Presentation
THR 9/28	Read My Pet Peeve Preview Play Three	Assignment: My Pet Peeve
TUE 10/3	Read Play Three Preview Something Greek	Play Three
THR 10/5	Fall Break	
TUE 10/10	Read Something Greek Preview Assignment: Strange Magic	Assignment: Something Greek
THR 10/12	Read Strange Magic Preview Play Four	Assignment: Strange Magic

TUE 10/17	Read Play Four Preview Assignment: Crimes and Misdemeanors	Play Four
THR 10/19	Catch up Day	TBA
TUE 10/24	Read Crimes and Misdemeanors Preview Assignment: Runaway	Assignment: Crimes and Misdemeanors
THR 10/26	Read Runaway Preview Assignment: All in the Game	Assignment: Runaway
TUE 10/31	Read All in the Game Preview Play Five	Assignment: All in the Game Play Five
THR 11/2	Work Day	Work Day TBA
TUE 11/7	Read Play Five	Play Five
THR 11/9	Revisions Workshop	
TUE 11/14	Read Revised Play of Your Selection	Revised Play
THR 11/16	TBA	TBA
TTR 11/20-24	Holiday	
TTR 11/28-30	Work on Your Play Reading	TBA
TUE 12/5 7PM		Play Reading Martha Munro

