

**THEA4415-01W – Playwriting (#11050)
MM 205**

**Spring 2005
MWF 11-11:50**

Instructor: J. Caleb Boyd

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Office Hours: M-F 10-11, M 1-3, TR 1-2, W 2-3 or by appointment

Texts:

Garrison, Gary. Perfect 10

Lane, Eric & Nina Shengold. Take Ten: New 10 Minute Plays

WebCT Help:

A great deal of this course is web-assisted via the UWG WebCT system. You can find a syllabus, an updated calendar of events/performance opportunities, and the five tests you will take during the semester on WebCT. You can access WebCT from the UWG home page, your UWG portal, or at <http://mywebct.westga.edu>.

For WebCT help, visit their website or call their helpline at 678-839-6248 on Monday - Friday from 8 AM – 5 PM.

WAC Description:

A “W” designation after a section number of a 3000 or 4000 level course signifies that the course is a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) course. WAC accepts as a guiding principle the idea that writing is a valuable tool for learning and communication. Therefore, the writing components of a course so designated are designed to help you learn the material and communicate what you have learned. Students are required to take two “W” courses for an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Degree Program Learning Outcomes:

- Expressing through performance, writing, speaking, and other modes of communication the results of research and critical judgment, indicated by a demonstrable ability to reach an audience effectively through at least one of the components of theatrical art and,
- Applying skills learned in courses to a variety of work and social environments.

Student Responsibilities:

- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that show 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, make sure you get the notes.
- Changes in the syllabus and schedule will be announced in class. Make sure you note these changes.
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned tests in a safe place.
- If you have scheduling conflicts with plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible to determine alternate courses of action.
- 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.

Participation and Attendance:

- **Participation:** Although playwriting is often a solitary process, developing playwrights are generally helped through collaboration with others. Therefore, your participation in all elements of this course is essential to your success. Classroom discussions, writing exercises and feedback to fellow playwrights will all contribute to your participation grade.
- **Attendance:** Attendance is also essential as you will often be counted on to read and provide feedback to fellow playwrights in class. Most of the tools you gain over the course of the semester will also come from in-class presentations and group collaborations. Therefore, you are allowed 2 absences without any penalty. After those two, however, you will lose 10 points from your total grade for each absence (effectively ½ a letter grade.) Tardiness will also detract from your grade as 2 tardies equal one full absence. Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class will constitute a full absence.

Grading Components:

Participation 20 points

Analysis/Foundational Components – (50 points total)

Mission Statement (WTL) 10 points
Character Study (WTL) 10 points
Plot Study (WTL) 10 points
Genre/Setting/Theme Study (WTL) 10 points
Garrison Summary (WTL) 10 points

Play #1 – (70 points total)

Abstract/Proposal 10 points
Dialogue Scene 10 points
Outline Draft 10 points
Initial Full Draft 10 points
Second Draft 10 points
Final Revised Draft (WTC) 20 points

Play #2 – (60 points total)

Abstract/Proposal 10 points
Outline Draft 10 points
Initial Full Draft 10 points
Second Draft 10 points
Final Revised Draft (WTC) 20 points

Total: 200 points

Grading Scale

200-180 = A 179-160 = B 159-140 = C
139-120 = D 120 > = F

Tentative Schedule – Subject to change with one week’s notice from instructor.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>		<u>Projects</u>
10-Jan	Intro & Syllabus		
12-Jan	Mission Statements		
14-Jan	Mission Statement Discussion		Mission Statements Due in Class
17-Jan	MLK Day – NO CLASS		
19-Jan	Character Analysis – Types/Function		
21-Jan	Character Study Discussion	(see below)	Character Study Due in Class
24-Jan	Plot Analysis – Components		
26-Jan	Plot Study Discussion	(see below)	Plot Study Due in Class
28-Jan	Genre/Setting/Theme		
31-Jan	<i>Garrison Text</i>		
2-Feb	<i>Garrison Text</i>		
4-Feb	<i>Garrison Text</i>		
7-Feb	Genre/Setting/Theme Discussion	(see below)	G/S/T Analysis Due in Class
9-Feb	Garrison Discussion		Garrison Reports Due in Class
11-Feb	Abstract Guidelines		
14-Feb	<i>Abstract Preparation</i>		Abstract Due on WebCT by 5:00
16-Feb	Discuss Abstracts		
18-Feb	Writing Effective Dialogue		
21-Feb	<i>Dialogue Scn Preparation</i>		Dialogue Scn Due on WebCT by 5:00
23-Feb	Dialogue Reading/Discussion		
25-Feb	<i>Outline Draft Preparation</i>		Outline Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
28-Feb	Discuss Drafts		
2-Mar	Discuss Drafts		
4-Mar	<i>Draft Preparation</i>		
7-Mar	<i>Draft Preparation</i>		1 st Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
9-Mar	Discuss Drafts/Rewrites		
11-Mar	Discuss Drafts/Rewrites		
14-Mar	<i>Rehearsal</i>		2 nd Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
16-Mar	<i>Rehearsal</i>		
18-Mar	First Play Reading - TBA		
21-Mar	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES		
23-Mar	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES		
25-Mar	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES		

28-Mar	Restarting Process		Final Draft – Play #1 due in Class
30-Mar	Restarting Process		
1-Apr	Play #2 Ideas Discussion		
4-Apr	<i>Abstract Preparation</i>		Abstract #2 Due on WebCT by 5:00
6-Apr	Abstract Discussion		
8-Apr	Abstract Discussion		
11-Apr	<i>Outline Draft Preparation</i>		Outline Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
13-Apr	Discuss Drafts		
15-Apr	Discuss Drafts		
18-Apr	<i>Draft Preparation</i>		1 st Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
20-Apr	Discuss Drafts/Rewrites		
22-Apr	Discuss Drafts/Rewrites		
25-Apr	<i>Draft Preparation</i>		2 nd Draft Due on WebCT by 5:00
27-Apr	<i>Rehearsal</i>		
29-Apr	<i>Rehearsal</i>		
3-May	Second Play Reading - TBA		
9-May	Final Draft Play #2 Due by 1:00 PM		

Character Study Plays

Brother (41-49)
 The Man Who Couldn't Dance (81-91)
 That Midnight Rodeo (203-210)
 Duet For Bear and Dog (245-252)
 Judgment Call (303-313)

Plot Analysis Plays

Anything for You (11-20)
 Hold For Three (95-100)
 Ferris Wheel (163-177)
 Brights (280-288)
 R.A.W. (291-300)

Genre/Setting/Theme Plays

The Philadelphia (67-77)
 Railing it Uptown (127-137)
 Stars (141-146)
 Yesterday's Window (181-189)
 The Spirit is Willing (213-220)