

THTR 713 – The One-Act Play

OBJECTIVE: To engage the student in the creation of a one-act play, creative writing for performance. This class will culminate in performance of the students work. The student will, then, move from creation to synthesis as he/she will work in concert with the rest of the class as well as outside collaborators to bring the play to fruition.

PROCESS: The students will be engaged in the study of the form, style and structure of stage play, specifically the one-act play. They will, then, be assigned a to write a one- act play, within certain parameters (a common set, specific number of characters,etc..). The first drafts of the plays will be workshopped in class. For the uninitiated, a “workshop” is an open discussion of the work in which strategies for the work’s improvement are discussed and presented. All good writing, especially writing for performance, is the result of process – it is a rare thing to have a piece of writing emerge fully-formed and perfect.

After a subsequent rewrite, we will begin a casting process and a rehearsal process (in which the writer will engage in another draft) and the class will culminate with a performance, with a live audience, in a theatre space on campus.

OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT: By the end of the course, the student will be able to identify standard structural elements in creative writing for performance, and explain how they are used in practice. The student will create an original script and execute rewrites of that script. The student will function as part of the cohort in analysis and criticism of everyone’s scripts as they are presented and workshopped in class. The student will, then, create a live, theatrical event, using the play-script as the basis of the work. The assessment will be based on four areas: 1) how well the student applies the lessons of study to the first draft of the play; 2) how well the student responds to the workshop and rewrite process; 3) how well the student responds to the collaborative nature of performance of the work; 4) the quality of the final performance.

A couple of these may seem more subjective than others, and, well, they are. This is creative writing and performance—subjectivity is part of the whole mess of fine arts. There are certain expectations that will be set up in the first class about comportment and “listening” to others that will be monitored by the professor as well as the cohort. Simple accomplishment of the requirements will go a long way for passing grade. As it stands, percentage-wise, this is the break down of the grading, by area: 1) 25% -- applies structural elements; 2) 25% -- writing and rewriting; 3) 35% -- collaborate to create play; 4) 15% -- overall quality of final performance (how well did the student execute what the student set to do).

Schedule of Classes: (Schedule may and will change due to the requirements of creative activity.)

Jan 22 – Archetypes. A bit of drama history. Why the one-act? Rules for the class and for the script.

Jan 29 – Review. Discussion of archetype play. Germinal ideas to be discussed.

Feb 5 – Workshop first drafts. (These workshops will be in response to distribution of written work.) Start recruiting directors.

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Feb 19 – Determine/meet with directors. Writers may direct: but NOT their own work.

Feb 26 – Table Read of Second drafts. Discussion. Order determined. Directors may/should be present.

Mar 4 – Begin auditions. Actors will present their prepared material.

Mar 11 – Call-back auditions. Actor draft conducted/negotiated. Casts determined.

Mar 18 – Full cast read through of play. Discussion.

Mar 25 – SPRING BREAK

April 1 – Rehearsals.

April 8 – Rehearsals. (Tech meetings: lights and sound)

April 15 – Rehearsals. Site visit for tech – curtain/stage behind set issue solved by now.

April 20 – Dress rehearsal (6111 at Paul Harris Theatre)

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April 22 – Performance

April 23 – Performance

April 24 – Matinee Performance

May 13 – Final drafts and workshop.

IMPORTANT -- As a film major you will be presented with opportunities to work in the production of your own projects, other student or faculty projects, projects for other classes and even professional projects that will shoot in town. You are encouraged you to take advantage of every opportunity to practice and hone your art and craft but not at the expense of your work in this class. Participation in **any** production outside of this class is **not** an excuse for failing to complete any and all responsibilities established in this course.

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the

obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student

Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at:

<https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information: <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning> or <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course

without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library Resources -- Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.