

Dramatic Writing (30)
Syllabus

Instructor: Patrick Hurley, Anna Watts, David Kepner, Ryan Fogle, Jon Sprick

Class: Content Creation and Scriptwriting Summer Institute

Course Description

The Content Creation and Scriptwriting Summer Institute is a two-week, UC credit-bearing intensive for students interested in writing for the web, film, and theater. This program provides opportunities to work with our distinguished faculty in classes such as webisode writing, playwriting, screenwriting, improv, and sketch comedy. Over the two-week institute, students will learn the technical components of writing for the web, screen and stage while gaining hands-on experience in developing and completing three short form writing samples and working collaboratively to shoot the class final project.

Course Goals and Objectives

- Obtain an in-depth understanding of the content creation writing process
- Explore and use personal experience, abstract thought, and the world around us to influence and shape the world of the script
- Develop skills in script analysis and storytelling.
- Understand how to apply improvisation and sketch comedy to every students' writing.
- Gain tools to confidently communicate a message, making specific choices.
- Create distinct voices for characters.

Grade Breakdown:

Classroom Participation:	35%
Homework:	25%
Research Assignment:	10%
Final Project (Short Film)	30%

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all classes. Absences throw off the collaborative classroom dynamic and tardiness disrupts the whole class. Every unexcused absence causes your grade to drop and two tardies equal one absence.

Participation: Participation in all classes and completion of assignments is an expectation.

You should always be prepared to be called on, ready and eager to volunteer. The following will aid you in having a successful experience in this class:

An open mind and attitude

Commitment to the work and process

Cooperation with and respect for all students

Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students needing academic accommodations based on disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at 310-825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within one week of the start of the summer session institute start date, as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.

For more information, visit www.cae.ucla.edu

CCSI: Play Analysis

With Anna Watts annawatts@tft.ucla.edu

Pre-Arrival Work:

- Read *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell

Class Expectations:

You must be present and ready to work at every class. You must arrive on time with all your materials. We will be sharing your work in class, you must be respectful, kind and attentive to your classmates' work. Any form of bullying, discrimination, or meanness will not be tolerated. You are a pre-professional. The people in this room will be your coworkers one day. **Cellphones are not allowed in class.** If your cellphone is out during class, it will be confiscated.

Class Materials:

- Laptop/tablet
- Writing utensil and notebook
- Reading assignments (please bring these to class everyday)

Homework:

- You will have two reading and two writing assignments
- Your homework must be completed by the start of class

Reading Material: Will be provided

- *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell
- *May Tag* by Thomas W. Stephens
- *Glass* by Caryl Churchill

SESSION 1 - July 15th, 7pm-9pm

- Lecture: Crash Course in Aristotle's Poetics and Story Structure(s)
- Discussion: Dissecting text - Susan Glaspell's *Trifles*

Home work:

Read - *May Tag* by Thomas W. Stephens

Write - A One Minute Play (one page play). Be sure that your play has a clear beginning, middle, and end. While writing your play, think of Aristotle's Elements of Drama. How are you using them? What elements do you find most important while writing your 1-minute play? Be prepared to share your one minute play in class.

SESSION 2 - July 22nd, 7pm-9pm

- Lecture: Creating Character
- Discuss: *May Tag*
- Read and discuss: One Minute Plays

Home work:

Read - *Glass* by Caryl Churchill

Write - A one-minute monologue following this prompt:

Create a character that needs something from another character. Write a one-minute monologue in which we learn and experience what that character needs, why they need it, and what is in their way of getting it. Try to tell a story with this monologue that illuminates character traits about both the character talking and the person (or whatever living thing) the character is talking to.

SESSION 3 - July 26th, 10:15am-12:30pm

- Lecture: Metaphor, Style, Tone, and Nontraditional Plays and Play Structures
- Discuss: *Glass*
- Read and Discuss: One Minute Monologues
- Industry Q and A with Anna Watts