



School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENGL 158-section 01
Creative Writing: Playwriting
2008F

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @
<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/learn/calendar/index.html#ENGL>

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Bronwen Welch		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursday 1-3 or by appointment		
(c)	Location:	Paul 328		
(d)	Phone:	370-3349		
(e)	Email:	WelchB@Camosun.bc.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify at a beginner's level, the process of playwriting.
2. Analyse some sense of how the theatre works and what the playwright's role is in the production of a new play.
3. Evaluate the importance of conflict for an effective play.
4. Practise dialogue with a fair degree of facility, and with due attention to sub-text.
5. Practise and hone skills for playwriting through a comprehensive set of exercises, such as monologues, various short statements about what is happening with the characters.
6. Evaluate and produce plots, settings, characters and appropriately nuanced language with effective use of figures of speech.
7. Practise effective journal keeping, to understand its importance for the playwright.
8. Carry out appropriate research to give plays credibility.
9. Identify the various resources available for playwrights.
10. Prepare a play for submission for publication following the guidelines of The Playwrights' Union of Canada (PUC).

3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	<i>The Blunt Playwright: An Introduction to Playwriting</i> Ed. Clem Martini. Playwrights Canada Press: Toronto, 2006.
(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ English 158 course-pack➤ Supplementary handouts

		<p>One Theatre Ticket to the following performance:</p> <p><i>Half Life</i> playing at the Belfry Theatre from SEPTEMBER 16 - OCTOBER 19, 2008</p> <p>ticket prices:</p> <p><i>Previews / Tuesdays (8 pm) - \$ 21</i></p> <p><i>Wednesday Matinees (1 pm) / Sunday Matinees (2 pm) - \$ 25</i></p> <p><i>Wednesdays (8 pm) / Thursdays (8 pm) / Saturdays (4 pm) - \$ 28</i></p> <p><i>Opening Nights / Fridays / Saturdays (8 pm) - \$ 36</i></p>
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4. Course Content and Schedule

<p>ENGLISH 158</p> <p>Creative Writing: Playwriting</p> <p><i>TENTATIVE</i> TERM SCHEDULE</p>
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Date	What We Will Cover	Assignments and Readings
Sept. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction to course -Designation of groups -What Makes a Play -The Staging of a Play 	<p>Read pgs. 3-22 in <i>Blunt Playwright</i></p>
Sept. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desire / Conflict / Struggle -<i>Time Lock (Exercise)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read 25-39 in Blunt - Read “Hum” (Blunt)

Sept. 10	Critique "Hum" - <i>Who is in the Photo?</i> (Exercise)	Read 43-66 of <i>Blunt</i>
Sept. 15	- Dialogue and Beginning - <i>newspaper exercise</i> - <i>Assign Dialogue Exercise</i>	Read 69-84 in <i>Blunt</i> - <i>Interrupted Ritual Scene</i>
September 17	- Workshop Scenes	Read "Teeth" (Coursepack) Read 87-100 (<i>Blunt</i>) - <i>Flip Flop Exercise</i>
Sept. 22	- <i>Dialogue Exercise Due</i> - <i>Assign Ten Minute Play</i> Critique "Hum" and think about escalation and complication - <i>Flip Flop (Exercise)</i>	Read 103 –112 in <i>Blunt</i> Read "Tender Offer" in Coursepack
Sept 24	Endings <i>Change the ending (exercise)</i>	-Read 115- 135 - Read "Play" (course pack)
Sept. 29	- Dialogue Exercise Back - Subtext - Subtext Exercise	- Read "Play" (coursepack) - Drafts of Ten Minute Plays Due Next Class (Bring one copy for yourself and one copy for each member of your group)
Oct. 1	Workshop Drafts	

Oct. 6	First Draft of Ten Minute Play Due	Read "Shape of a Girl" (coursepack)
Oct. 8	- Monologues - Shape of a Girl	Work on Monologue Exercise
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – No Class	Monologue assignment (Blunt pages 152-153)
Oct. 15	- <i>Ten Minute Play Back</i> - Workshop Monologues	Monologue Assignment Due Next Class Read Forward[s] to <i>My Dinner with Andre</i> (handout)
Oct. 20	Final Draft of Ten Minute Play Due <i>My Dinner with Andre</i>	Read "Here We Are" (Coursepack)
Oct. 22	Discussion of Belfry Play "Here We Are" "Limit the Words"	Read "On Tidy Endings"
Oct. 29	- <i>Play Back</i> - Change the ending exercise	Monologue Assignment Due Next Class
November 3	- Monologue Assignment Due -Workshops on Exercise 6	

Nov. 5	- Critique <i>Shape of a Girl</i>	Read "Teeth" (coursepack)
Nov. 10	- Monologue Assignment Back - Move out exercise - change the gender (exercise)	
Nov. 12	NO CLASS REMEMBRANCE DAY	First Draft of One Act Play Due (bring one copy for yourself and one for each of your actors)
Nov. 17	First Draft of One Act Play Due - Workshop Plays	First Draft of One Act Play Due next class (you must bring one copy for me and one copy for each member of your group)
Nov. 19	Workshop Plays	
Nov. 21	Workshop Plays	Read "Mr. Harold and the Boys"
Nov. 24	- Plays Back Critique "Mr. Harold and the Boys"	
Nov. 26	Draft Back REVERSE POV EXERCISE	Read "Wit"
Dec. 1	"Wit"	Your Final Draft is due next day!
Dec. 3	Hand in Final draft of One Act Play	

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a)	Assignments	Assignment 1 (first draft – ten minute play) 10% Assignment 2 (second draft – ten minute play) 10% Assignment 3 (first draft – One-Act Play) 15% Assignment 4 (second draft – One-Act Play) 20%
(b)		Write-up of Play (5%) Dialogue exercise (10%) Monologue Assignment (10%)
(c)	Other (eg, Attendance, class work, in-class writing, Group Work)	Participation 20% (including attendance, workshops, in-class journals, etc.)

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Credit is granted but grade cannot transfer	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.

CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.
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7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

Attention!

- ❖ All due dates are **firm**. Late assignments will not receive comments and will lose **10% per day** unless accompanied by a documented medical excuse.
- ❖ I do not accept work via email nor do I accept work pushed under my door. I will not grade work that I receive in this manner.
- ❖ **Plagiarism** (presenting the ideas or words of others as your own) is a serious academic offence. In this class, the **minimum** penalty for plagiarism is a grade of zero on the relevant assignment. In addition, I will report plagiarized assignments to the appropriate authorities. Please refer to the attached handout on plagiarism to familiarize yourself with both the definitions of plagiarism and the consequences for plagiarism at Camosun College. In addition, students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the college's policy on academic conduct. You can find that policy in the Camosun College Calendar or on line at the following location:
<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/ombuds/student-conduct.pdf>
- ❖ You must keep a photocopy or disk copy of everything you hand in to me in case one of your assignments is misplaced, stolen, or damaged. You must also keep all returned work, and produce it when asked to do so.

- ❖ You are responsible for information, verbal or written, given in class. Please keep track of all handouts and assigned readings, and note that neither unexcused absence from class during the discussion of tasks and assignments nor inattention to classroom activities, verbal explanations, or handouts exempts you from meeting deadlines or preparing for class.
- ❖ Participation means contributing to discussions in a genuine and meaningful way. Obviously, you can't participate if you aren't here. Your participation mark is determined not only by your consistent attendance but also by your active contribution in group-workshops as well as in-class discussions.
- ❖ You are expected to go and see a production of *Half Life* playing at the Belfry Theatre from SEPTEMBER 16 - OCTOBER 19, 2008. There will be a writing assignment based on these plays.

Grading

- A Range (85 - 100%) Superior level of achievement
- Exceptional insight into material or topic
 - Detailed, significant discussion
 - Effective organization
 - Fluent, error-free expression
- B Range (70-84%) High level of achievement
- Competent treatment of material or topic but less originality or perception than an "A" paper
 - Full discussion but not as detailed or specific as "A" level
 - Sound organization and attention to grammar
- C+ (65 – 69%) Satisfactory level of achievement
- Content reasonably well-organized
 - Clear but somewhat mechanical organization
 - May have good content but also may include serious mechanical errors
- C (60 – 64%) Sufficient level of achievement to proceed to next level
- Content is adequately supported
 - Mechanical but generally coherent organization
 - Several serious mechanical errors
- D (50 – 59%) Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted
- Limited or misleading content with inadequate or inappropriate support
 - Incomplete or confusing organization
 - Frequent errors which confuse or mislead the reader
- F (Below 50%) Minimum level not achieved.
- Inadequate or inaccurate content
 - Incoherent organization
 - So many errors that the reader cannot understand the paper adequately

