

School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CRWR 158-001 Creative Writing: Drama 1 2015

This course offers students a chance to explore and refine their skills and goals in writing for stage and screen. CRWR 158 focuses on developing a student's ability to craft scripts with workable conflicts, to create character, and to use subtext effectively.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Bronwen Welch
(b)	Office Hours:	Mondays from 3-5 or by appointment
(c)	Location:	Ewing 218
(d)	Phone:	370-3194
(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 scriptwriting for stage and screen.
- 2. Evaluate the importance of conflict for an effective script.
- 3. Practice dialogue with a fair degree of facility, and with due attention to sub-text.
- 4. Practice and hone skills for playwriting through a comprehensive set of exercises, such as monologues, various short statements about what is happening with the characters.
- 5. Evaluate and produce plots, settings, characters and appropriately nuanced language with effective use of figures of speech.
- 6. Practice effective journal keeping, to understand its importance for the playwright.
- 7. Carry out appropriate research to give plays credibility.
- 8. Identify the various resources available for playwright

3. Required Materials

(a)	Text	There is no formal text assigned text for this class. Some readings will be provided in the form of handouts.
		Torm of handouts.

4. Tentative Course Content and Schedule

<u>Date</u>	What We Will Cover	<u>Major Assignments and</u> <u>Reminders</u>
Week 1 Jan. 6	Course introductions.	
Jan. 8	 Groups and Group Members Character and conflict Hand out 1st assignment: Monologue 	Read "The Shape of a Girl" (handout) for January 15 th

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Week 2	Wkshop: character and conflict	
Jan. 13	Monologues	
	Quiz #1: "The Shape of a Girl"	
Jan 15	The Arc of Monologue	
Week 3		Make sure to send your
Jan 20	• Set-up, Climax and Resolution	monologue to your group members AND TO ME by January 21 ST BY 4PM. Completing your rough draft on time will count as part of your workshopping mark.
Jan 22	Workshop: monologues	
Week 4		
Jan 27	Finish workshopping monologues	
	exposition without Agony	
	Monologue assignment due	1) Assign Ten Minute play
Jan 29	• The Ten Minute Play : what is it?	2) Read "Tender Offer" (handout) for Feb. 3
Week 5		
Feb 3	• Quiz #2: "Tender offer"	
	Structure of a ten minute play	
	Structure of a ten minute play	
Feb. 5	Exposition vs action	
Week 6		
Feb 10	Visit from Canadian playwright Janice Munsil	
	Keeping House: Script Formats, Stage Directions and	
	Stage Notes	
		Make sure to send First
	Reading Break: College Closed	drafts to your group AND TO
Feb 12		ME on Feb. 16 by 10 in the
		morning (at the latest).
		Completing your rough draft
		on time will count as part of
		your workshopping mark.

Week 7	Workshopping ten minute play	
Feb 17		
Feb 19	Workshopping ten minute play	
Week 8		
Feb 24	Working Consciously with Subtext	Ten Minute Play due next class!
Feb 26	Ten Minute Play due	
	Hand out short film assignment	
	Film Genres	
Week 9	The non-linear film	
March 3	• Screening of Samuel Beckett's <i>Play</i>	
March 5	• Quiz on # 3 <i>Play</i>	
	Character: Journeys, Actions, Who?, How?	
	Visualizing Action	
Week 10	Screening of Lola Rennt	
March 10		
	• Finish Lola Rennt	
March 12	Character and Action	
	Working Consciously with Subtext	
Week 11	Quiz # 4 Lola Rennt	
March 17	Screenplay Form	
	Working with Dialogue	
	Screening of Neil Gaiman's Statuesque	Make sure to send First
March 19	Beginning and Ending your film	Drafts of your short films to
		your group AND TO ME BY
		March 22 no later than 10
		am!!!!! This will count as
		part of your work-shopping
		mark.
Week 12	Quiz # 5 on Statuesque	
March 24	Using Metaphor to deepen the drama	
March 26	Wkshop First Draft of Short Film	

Week 13 March 31	Wkshop First Draft of Short Film	
April 2	Wkshop First Draft of Short Film	
Week 14 April 7th	Wkshop First Draft of Short Film	
April 9	Wkshop First Draft of Short Film	Final copy of film due Tuesday, April 14 th , at my office by 4pm

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Required assignment type	What your instructor will assign	Value
First assignment 700 words (approximately)	Monologue	15%
Short Play	•	15%
Workshops	 Each student will have his/her work critiqued in class 3 times. Each critique is worth 5%. The first two workshops, you will be put into small groups of 4 or 5. You will email your rough draft to your group members AND TO ME on the dates specified The third workshop will be done as a class. You will email me your rough draft on March 25th by 4pm. To get full marks for this section of the course, you must email your drafts on the date specified AND you must attend each of the critiquing sessions. 	15%
Participation	Grade Rationale for Attendance: This is based on a maximum of 20 classes. Classes Missed and Corresponding Marks: 0- = 100%; 1- 2 = 90%; 3-4 = 80%; 5-6 = 70%; 7-9= 60%; 10-12 = 50%; 13-14 = 40%; 15-16 = 30%; 17-18 = 20%; 19-21 = 10%; 22 = 0%	10%

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Quizzes	There are five quizzes in this class. Each quiz is based on the assigned reading. Each is worth 2%	10%
Assignment Three (Rough Draft) Approximately 7-10 pages	Rough draft of short film script	15%
Assignment Four (Final Draft) Approximately 15-20 pages	Final Draft of short film script	20%

6. Standard Grading System (GPA)

A+	= 90-100%	B-	= 70-72%
А	= 85-89%	C+	= 65-69%
A-	= 80-84%	С	= 60-64%
B+	= 77-79%	D	= 50-59%
В	= 73-76%	F	= Below 50%

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.
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.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There is 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 <u>camosun.ca</u>.

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.

Assignments

Attention!

- Work is due at the **beginning** of class on the dates specified.
- 5% per day (even Saturdays and Sundays) will be deducted for lateness. Unless you discuss you contact me at least 24 hours in advance.
- Please use 12-point font and double space on your assignments. Number pages and secure with a staple.

- Nothing will be accepted after 7 days (including Saturdays and Sundays) past due date.
- There are five quizzes in this class. They are based on assigned readings, films we viewed in class, and class discussions. If you miss a quiz you cannot retake it unless you have a doctor's note explaining your absence.

Readings:

- As with any course, it is vitally important that you have completed all assigned readings before coming to each class.
- Since our class time will consist of group discussion, workshops, and exercises, you must have read the assigned work thoroughly enough to be able to intelligently participate in that class.

Participation, Attendance, and Class Obligations

- It is quite impossible for you to do well in this course if you do not regularly attend. Class time is your opportunity to clarify your ideas, responses and understanding of your work as well as the work of other writers.
- PLEASE NOTE: I DO NOT ALLOW RE-WRITES
- SPECIAL NOTE: Be sure to keep all rough drafts and marked material until the end of term
- You may eat snacks in class, but avoid snacks that are loud, smelly, sticky, drippy, or crumbly.
- Please do not text in class
- Please turn off your cell-phone

ATTENTION!

There are two people in the class who have food allergies. Please respect their health by avoiding bringing food to class that contains either Coconut OR walnuts.