

Writing the One-Act Play Syllabus

Instructor

Douglas Post

Quarter: Spring 2024

Start – end date: March 21 – May 9

Session day/time: Thursday, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Course Code and Section: WRIT22402 24S1

Email

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Course Overview

This course is designed for writers who want to develop a one-act play on which they have already begun work. This may include a script that runs anywhere from 20 to 40 pages in length. We will explore the skills and qualities of effective stagecraft by reading and discussing the participants' scripts in a supportive and challenging environment, with the goal being to get their short plays ready for production.

Modality

Remote learning

Note to students

Participants should bring a scene from their play that is no more than ten pages in length. It can be from the beginning or the middle or the end of their play, but, generally, it is better to move forward chronologically. It is also better to bring in something that they feel has a particular problem or needs work or, at the very least, can be improved upon. It is absolutely fine for participants to then rewrite this scene and bring it in for the next class. It is also absolutely fine to take the criticism and keep moving forward.

Everyone should give some thought to who should read what.

Everyone should be ready to listen.

And everyone should be prepared to present something in each and every one of our eight sessions. We may not always get to everyone's work, but we will try. Even if a participant has nothing to present on a particular week, they will find it helpful to attend as they may benefit from comments that are made about the work of others and their own comments will almost certainly contribute to the conversation.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Recommended Reading

Plays in One Act, edited by Daniel Halpern (HarperCollins Publishers, 1991, ISBN-13 978-0880014908)

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

UChicago CARES Statement:

The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.