University of Chicago, Graham School  
Writer’s Studio  

**Writing the One-Act Play**  
WRIT22402  
Spring 2022  

Thursday at 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. from March 31 to May 19  
Online  

Douglas Post  
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Recommend books:  


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.  

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.