

**PLAYWRITING: 4 CREDITS:**

CW 3600 14754 THA 3040 14189

Lecturer: Kitty Dubin

Room 222 Varner Hall: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:47

Office hours: By appointment

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Email address: [dubin@oakland.edu](mailto:dubin@oakland.edu). [writerkd@aol.com](mailto:writerkd@aol.com)**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To learn the basic elements of playwriting: structure, character, and dialogue.
2. To analyze these elements in existing works.
3. To write a 10 minute play incorporating these elements.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

A large part of the class will focus on the craft of playwriting. The remainder will function as a writing workshop. At different stages in the writing process, other students in the class will read your plays aloud. You will receive feedback from me as well as classmates that will then help you to rewrite your work.

**GRADE POLICY:** Your grade will be determined by the following:

**SHORT PLAY ASSIGNMENTS:**

You will be required to write four short plays. These assignments will be worth 50-55% of your grade. You will have a chance to rewrite each play before it is graded.

**THE FINAL PROJECT** will be worth 25-30% of your grade and will consist of two parts:

1. Preparation for a ten-minute play.
2. A ten-minute play. Only the final draft will be graded. The final project will be due the last day of class. No exceptions.

**REVIEWS OF PLAYS YOU WILL ATTEND:** During the semester, you will be required to attend two plays and write reviews of them. I will provide guidelines for these reviews and plays that can be attended. Each review will be worth 10% of your grade.

**REQUIRED READING:** *DOUBT* by John Patrick Shanley can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Other required reading will be distributed in class.

**SCRIPT FORMAT:** A copy of a one-act play, *THE PROM DRESS*, will be distributed in class and provides the proper professional format for you to follow.

**LATE WORK:** Assignments must be turned in on time. If you are absent when an assignment is due, you can email it to me that day and not suffer any penalty to your grade. If you turn in an assignment the next class after it is due, your grade will be lowered one half grade. If you turn it in the week after it is due, your grade will be lowered a grade. I will not accept an assignment more than one week after it is due.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Assignments must be word processed and professionally formatted. No handwritten work will be accepted. Proofread carefully for spelling, grammar and punctuation before turning in an assignment.
2. If you are scheduled to have your play read aloud in class, make copies for the number of characters in your play, someone to read stage directions, and me. The stage directions you want to be read should be highlighted on only one copy. Staple each copy and then paper clip all the copies together.
3. If you have to miss a class, let me know by email that day, preferably before class.
4. When you are scheduled to have your play read aloud in class that is a firm commitment unless you are unable to attend class that day.
5. If you are absent, contact another student or myself to find out what you have missed so you do not fall behind and you will be able to complete assignments on time.
6. Each class will begin with a time for questions. If you want to schedule an individual conference with me, please contact me by email. I respond quickly and can usually meet before or after class.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You are entitled to two absences (whether excused or unexcused) for the semester. Every absence thereafter will result in a deduction of your grade. There will be a bonus for perfect attendance. Class will begin on time. It will be noted if you are tardy. Being tardy three times will constitute one absence.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be no tests or a final exam given in this course.

**NEW OU POLICIES as of this semester:**

**LETTER GRADES:** This semester Oakland University has changed from number to letter grades.

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

**ROOM 222**

The four tables in Room 222 must be returned to their original position at the end of class.

**FOOD**

No food is to be eaten during class. Beverages of any kind are permissible.

**PHONE USE**

Cell phones should be turned off (unless there is an emergency) during class.