Course Objectives/SLOs

By the end of the summer term, students in this course will be able to: Further enhance the scriptwriting process as an advancement of previous work; explore and develop the basic skill sets needed for writing and developing a script for the stage or the screen; demonstrate and develop techniques for writing works intended for performance; understand how to take a performance piece from concept to produced script; implement the collaborative process as it pertains to developing work for the stage and screen.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this course, but I highly recommend you seek out any or all of the suggested texts I have listed below.

- Backwards and Forwards by David Ball. A concise and highly useful guide to analyzing scripts. What makes a good script good and how you want a director and production team to read your script.

- The Anatomy of Story by John Truby. Pretty much a vital addition to any script writer’s library.

- The Playwright’s Guidebook by Stuart Spencer. I generally don’t care for most playwriting books, but this one has good, practical advice.

Grading Considerations

Written Assignments. Each assignment must be prepared with understanding and thoroughness. Assignments must be ready on the date due. Late or inadequate work will result in no credit for the assignment. Assignments cannot be made up.

Participation. For the summer term and given the nature of this installment of the seminar, participation is perhaps the most vital of all grading considerations. You will be expected to share writing created both inside and outside of class for the purpose of evaluation and discussion. You will be expected to thoroughly discuss each of your classmates’ submitted assignments in class. You will also be expected to work directly with the actors and any other theatre artists contributing their time to the development of your pieces. All comments, interactions and responses are expected to be thorough and constructive.

Initial drafts of a one-act or full-length play. At least two weeks prior to our first class meeting in Cork, I’d like you to provide us with a clean first/initial draft ready for us to read and discuss. If you are generating a piece over the course of the workshop, I’d like you to have a very specific idea of
what this piece will be and how you plan on developing it. Ideally, even for those generating work, an initial partial draft (coupled with a thorough outline) would be nice to have two weeks prior to our first meeting, no matter how rough it may be.

Cleanliness of drafts. An important part of the workshop process is being able to consistently provide your collaborative team with clean, reading/performance-ready pages. Thoroughly proof everything before passing it on.

Final drafts. Prior to your final reading/staging, you will be required to provide a clean draft of an entire script.

Assignments Policies

Submission. If possible, the instructor should be provided with hard copies of all drafts and revisions. I would also like it if you backed up those hard copies by sending them to me as either MS Word docs or pdfs at james.winter@selu.edu. You will also be required (from time to time) to provide the actors with drafts of your script.

Format. All scripts should follow correct formatting guidelines.

Grade Values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial draft of one-act or full-length play</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness of drafts/reading-ready scripts</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final draft of one-act or full-length play</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention, discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing exercises</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Point System.

- 90-100  = A
- 80-89   = B
- 70-79   = C
- 60-69   = D
- 50-59   = F

FINAL EXAMINATION.

There will not be a final examination for this course. Your completion of a revised draft that is prepped and ready for a staged reading will serve as your final.

UNIVERSITY EMAIL POLICY.

Please note: Regardless of the email policy of the University of New Orleans, I would prefer you to email me at james.winter@selu.edu. Since most of my emails to you will be sent via Moodle, my default contact information for you will be whatever email your Moodle is tied to.
SPECIAL NEEDS.

If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services. No accommodations will be granted without documentation from the Office of Disability Services.

DROPPING THE COURSE.

All students wishing to drop the course must go through the official procedure with the Registrar’s Office. Since students are not required to get the instructor’s signature when dropping a course, the instructor may not know if a student has dropped the course, is ill, or has just stopped coming to class. To merely stop going to class does not remove one from the roll. Such non-attendance will likely result in that student receiving an “F” on the final grade report.

Check the University calendar for the last day to withdraw date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Behavior that violates these standards is not acceptable. Examples are the use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other class work. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, improper acknowledgement of sources in essays and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course without permission are considered very serious offenses and shall be grounds for disciplinary action as outlined in the current General Catalogue.

CLASSROOM DECORUM.

All criticisms and other artistic interactions are expected to be balanced, constructive and, ideally, supported.

Course Schedule will be forthcoming. Check your email soon for an updated syllabus and a tentative course schedule for the summer residency in Cork.