THEA 340 – PLAYWRITING, FALL ‘11
Prof. Philip Atlakson, MC-C111, patlakson@yahoo.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will study selected plays for a basic understanding of plot and action, write two short-format scripts, learn and practice workshop skills, and develop a short play to be performed in a public venue.

ATTENDANCE:
A play - properly understood - is a live event, and so the study of playwriting demands class attendance and participation. Most graded assignments are presented in class and cannot be rescheduled. Work submitted late will not be eligible for full credit. One excused absence will be permitted. Thereafter lose 5 points per absence.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Min. Play #1 (True Story Play) Proposal Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Min. Play #2 (Proverb Play) Proposal Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Min. Play #1 (9-12 pgs.) – First Draft Presentation*</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Min. Play #2 (9-12 pgs) – First Draft Presentation*</td>
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<td>Written Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop/Tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Minute Play – Rewritten Showcase Script Presentation*</td>
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*scripts must be typed in standard format (see Sample Format Page below)

REQUIRED TEXTS:
“All in the Timing” by David Ives (“The Philadelphia” & “Sure Thing”)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

AUG 23 – Course Introduction - Two Ways of Seeing/Two Approaches to Playwriting
25 – Basic Story Telling: Plot
30 – Writing a “True Story” Play: Outside In

SEPT 1 – Workshop: Keeping an audience on the edge: What Happens Next?
6 – Play Proposal Presentations: “True Story” I
8 – Play Proposal Presentations: “True Story” I
13 – Play Proposal Presentations: “True Story” II
15 – Play Proposal Presentations: “True Story” II
20- Presentations: True Story Play, First Draft
22 – Presentations: True Story Play, First Draft
27 – Presentations: True Story Play, First Draft
29 – Presentations: True Story Play, First Draft

OCT 4 - Writing a “Proverb” Play: Inside Out
WRITTEN NOTES DUE – “The Proposal”/“Sure Thing”
6 – Proposal Presentations: Proverb Play: One-Sheet (Title, Premise, Synopsis)
11 – Proposal Presentations: Proverb Play: One-Sheet (Title, Premise, Synopsis)
13 – Presentations: Proverb Play, First Draft
18 – Presentations: Proverb Play, First Draft
20 – Presentations: Proverb Play, First Draft - Tutorials Scheduled
25 – Presentations: Proverb Play, First Draft
27 – Workshop Skills

NOV
1 – Workshop/Tutorials
3 – Workshop/Tutorials
8 – Workshop/Tutorials
10 – Workshop/Tutorials
15 – Presentations: Rewritten Showcase Script (Play #1 or Play #2)
17 – Presentations: Rewritten Showcase Script (Play #1 or Play #2)
22 – HOLIDAY
24 – HOLIDAY
29 – Presentations: Rewritten Showcase Script (Play #1 or Play #2)

DEC
1 – Presentations: Rewritten Showcase Script (Play #1 or Play #2)
6 – WORKDAY - REHEARSALS
8 – FINAL EXAM: Flying M Public Showcase

NOTE: Students with disabilities are encouraged to speak to the professor about accommodations they may need to produce an assessable learning environment.