



## School of Liberal Arts

Creative Writing 243

Writing Drama

Winter 2025

3 Credits

### Course Outline

<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Ben Charland, BFA, MA	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	By request, in-person or online
<b>OFFICE</b>	N/A	<b>CLASSROOM</b>	A2605
<b>E-MAIL</b>	benoit.charland@yukonu.ca	<b>CLASS TIME</b>	Monday, 5:30-8:20pm
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	N/A	<b>CRN</b>	20076
<b>Liberal Arts office:</b> Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to playwriting. You will learn how to originate, develop, shape and workshop a play, pulling from various traditions and techniques. You will work closely with your classmates through discussion and collaboration. By the end, you will have written, workshopped and revised your own one-act play.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Six credits of university-level composition and/or literature; or CRWR 201, CRWR 202, or CRWR 241; or permission of the Department based on previous writing and/or theatre experience.

## EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

For information about course transferability please refer to the BC Transfer Guide at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or contact the School of Liberal Arts office at (867) 668-8770.

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through successful completion of the course, you will:

- gain an understanding of the creative writing process as applied to playwriting;
- develop an appreciation of the possibilities of playwriting as a literary form;
- acquire the skills necessary to write original short-form plays;
- demonstrate the ability to revise original short-form plays;
- demonstrate the ability to critique short-form drama based on the requirements of craft.

## COURSE FORMAT

### Delivery format

This course is delivered on campus, in person. You are expected to attend class and may be required to complete assignments and/or activities online or individually. There may be no facility for including students at a distance.

### Expectations & Workload

If you want to write plays, you need to read, watch, study—let alone write—plays. And “writing” is not just putting pen to paper or fingers to keys: to write is to research, sketch, daydream, workshop, speak your words out loud, revise, delete, despair, reenergize, discover, and then, sometimes, maybe, write.

In addition to regular classes, you can expect an average of 1-2 hours per week to read and 1-2 hours per week to write. Some weeks will be busier than others. Note that these averages are estimates: the time required will vary for each student.

## EVALUATION

### Engagement and Participation — 30%

The heart of our time in class together will be discussion. You will be graded on your personal engagement with assigned readings and the work of your fellow students, and the effort made in contributing thoughtfully to classroom discussions.

### Craft Exercises — 30%

There will be four assigned craft exercises. These are short studies in different aspects of playwriting. You will share them, and your discoveries in writing them, with the class. At least two of these exercises must be incorporated into your one-act play, though you may use them all.

### DUE DATES:

**No. 1 — Monday January 13**

**No. 2 — Monday January 27**

**No. 3 — Monday February 10**

**No. 4 — Monday February 24**

### One-Act Play — 40%

You will write a one-act play. Your play must incorporate at least two of your craft exercises (including any revisions), though you may use all four. The first draft (5%) is due in time for it to be workshopped in the final four classes. Your final draft (35%) will build on what you discovered during the workshop process.

**FIRST DRAFT DUE DATE: 11:59pm, Monday March 10**

**FINAL DRAFT DUE DATE: 11:59pm, Sunday April 20**

<b>Engagement and Participation</b> In-class contribution to discussion and workshops		30 %
<b>Craft Exercises</b>		30 %
• Exercise No. 1	7.5 %	
• Exercise No. 2	7.5 %	
• Exercise No. 3	7.5 %	
• Exercise No. 4	7.5 %	
<b>One-Act Play</b>		40 %
• First Draft	5 %	
• Final Draft	35 %	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Note on Lateness

Your completion of all assignments in this class are not just for your benefit: you will also learn, perhaps even more, from the work of others. Lateness without reasonable cause is not acceptable.

Unless an extension is granted, late submissions will immediately receive a 20% penalty to their final grade. For each additional day that a submission is late, a 5% penalty will be applied. When the total penalty reaches over 50% (8 days), submissions will not be accepted and will receive a final grade of 0.

## TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All course materials will be provided on Moodle.

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until **March 13** (when two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed). Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters)

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates)

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters)

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: [www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations](http://www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations)

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: [access@yukonu.ca](mailto:access@yukonu.ca). [Text updated 16 November 2022]

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Week - Date	Topic	Notes
1 - January 6	Introductions and Foundations	Shorter reading assigned Craft Exercise No. 1
2 - January 13	Starting Out, Getting & Tracking Ideas, AI	Longer reading assigned
3 - January 20	Character and Desire	Shorter reading assigned Craft Exercise No. 2
4 - January 27	Research	Longer reading assigned
5 - February 3	Dialogue	Shorter reading assigned Craft Exercise No. 3
6 - February 10	Dramatic Action	Longer reading assigned Craft Exercise No. 4
READING WEEK		
7 - February 24	Adaptation	Shorter reading assigned
8 - March 3	Structure	Shorter reading assigned
9 - March 10	The Workshop: A Test Run	One-Act Play First Draft due Withdrawal date: March 13
10 - March 17	Workshops, Part 1	Workshops 1-4
11 - March 24	Workshops, Part 2	Workshops 5-8
12 - March 31	Workshops, Part 3	Workshops 9-12
13 - April 7	Workshops, Part 4	Workshops 13-16
April 20		One-Act Play Final Draft due

