



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF **MODERN LETTERS**

Te Pūtahi Tuhi auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME CREW 353: WRITING FOR THEATRE 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 30 October 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

This course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place 10am – 1pm on Fridays in room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus.

Names and contact details

Workshop convenor	Briar Grace-Smith
Room	Room 404, 16 Waiteata Road
Hours on campus	TBA
Email	modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Any additional information will be given to students at the workshops or conveyed by email.

Prescription

A workshop in the art and craft of writing scripts for live performance.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Write scripts that are tailored to the considerations and unique dynamic of theatre
2. Create engaging narratives and characters in order to write a compelling stage play in the standard format
3. Understand and employ the basic tenets of playwriting including story structure, character, plot, dialogue, humour and subtext.

Teaching format

This course involves the practical writing and study of writing for the theatre. In the first half of the course, you will study the process of creating a stage play, and the various different approaches you can take. Students will be given weekly analysis and writing exercises, some of which will be discussed and workshopped in class. In the second half of the course, students will present and workshop parts of their final folio. Students will be encouraged to take on constructive criticism from the workshop convenor and their fellow students as they rewrite for the final folio.

Punctuality

The workshops being promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before the start.

Mandatory course requirements

Students must:

- attend all classes. As the course consists of numerous workshops and the discussion of each other's work, absences are unfair to others and affect the workshop process. A single absence due to extenuating circumstances would usually be excused; further absences would make it unlikely that you would pass the course.
- complete all the prescribed exercises, and contribute to the workshop discussion
- hand in two copies of your final folio on Friday 30 October 2015

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

Students should expect to spend about 200 hours across this course, which is approximately 15 hours per week. This figure includes the 3-hour weekly workshop. This consists partly of writing, reading stage plays and fellow students' work, and attending the theatre.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the portfolio you submit at the end of the course. Participation in class during the trimester will be taken into consideration; a thoughtful response to your classmates' work is of paramount importance.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your final folio must be submitted by Friday 30 October 2015 to the IIML. Two examiners (the workshop convenor and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy will be returned to you with your reports and one copy will be kept by the IIML in their archive.

CREW 353 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will received Grade P (ungraded pass).

Submission and return of work

Your final folio should be submitted on Friday 30 October 2015 either to the Administration Office at the IIML (Room 402, 16 Waiteata Road), or at the folio hand-in function (location to be advised).

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Photocopying will be an additional expense for you. When your work is being workshopped by the class, you will need to bring thirteen copies and hand them out the week before.

Set texts

There is one set text for this course, a Student Notes book which includes a range of examples of scripts. Otherwise our course texts will be produced, week by week, by members of the workshop group.

Recommended reading

Students are encouraged to read *The Playwright's Guidebook* by Stuart Spencer and *The Playwright's Process* by Buzz McLaughlin.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Workshop timetable

Friday 17 July *What is Theatre? What do we expect from it? The Nature of Story*

Friday 24 July *Character. Who and why?*

Friday 31 July *Monologue and Action*

Friday 7 August *The Construction of a Scene*

Friday 14 August *Workshopping 1 - 4*

Friday 21 August *Workshopping 5 - 8*

Mid trimester break for two weeks

Friday 11 September *Workshopping 9 - 11*

Friday 18 September *Dialogue, "You talking to me?" and Writers Rights*

Friday 25 September *Complexity/Rewriting and Working with a Director*

Friday 2 October *Workshopping 1 - 4*

Friday 9 October *Workshopping 5 - 8*

Friday 16 October *Workshopping 9 – 12*

Friday 30 October **Folio hand-in**