



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 2016

Important dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 28 October 2016

Study period: 17-20 October 2016

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 Old Kirk 403 (OK403) on the Kelburn Campus.

Names and contact details

Workshop convenor	Gary Henderson
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, vocabulary and unique dynamic of theatre
2. Create engaging narratives and characters in order to write a compelling theatre script in the standard format
3. Understand and employ the basic tenets of playwriting including story structure, character, plot, action, dialogue, exposition and subtext.

Teaching format

This course involves the practical writing and study of writing for the theatre. Each workshop will consist of teaching, writing exercises, reading of work, and some robust discussion. You will be encouraged and expected to join the conversation, and constructively engage in giving and taking critiques from your tutor and colleagues. A significant amount of this will be online interaction.

In the first half of the course, you will study the process of creating a stage play, and the various approaches you can take. The topics will be approached generally, through exercises. In the second half, the workshop content will be related specifically to the scripts you are writing, and will include reading parts of your final portfolio.

You will also have up to three one-on-one meetings with your tutor.

Punctuality

The workshops begin 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 28 October 2016

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 convenor 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 28 October 2016** 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.

The folio will consist of:

1. One 30 page script
2. A transcript of the online conversations with other students
3. A transcript of the feedback given to other students
4. A transcript of any exercise work
5. A transcript of any other response given on Blackboard to the convenor

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 28 October 2016 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, available online (on Blackboard), which includes a range of examples of scripts. You will also be given a template to guide your own independent reading and critiquing of published 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

To date there have been no suggestions for changes to this course from Student Feedback. However the IIML is open to any suggestions.

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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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 15 July	<i>Finding ideas and discovering a story / The vocabulary of theatre</i>
Friday 22 July	<i>Characters and relationships, conflict and the stakes</i>
Friday 29 July	<i>Plot structure and story</i>
Friday 5 August	<i>Dialogue and action</i>
Friday 12 August	<i>Exposition / Readings from scripts 1 - 6 and critiquing</i>
Friday 19 August	<i>Subtext / Readings from scripts 7 - 12 and critiquing</i>

Mid trimester break for two weeks

Friday 9 September	<i>Investigating your play, and the next draft</i>
Friday 16 September	<i>Q & A, reviewing and revisiting selected topics</i>
Friday 23 September	<i>Driving your work on to the stage - the practicalities of NZ Theatre</i>
Friday 30 September	<i>Reading scripts 1 - 4</i>
Friday 7 October	<i>Reading scripts 5 - 8</i>
Friday 14 October	<i>Reading scripts 9 - 12</i>
Friday 28 October	Folio hand-in