HON-H 232 Meaningful Writing: The Art and Craft of Playwriting
Stacey Brown
TuTh 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
WH 118

The world of theatre straddles both the literary and the collaborative, as playwrights, who are responsible for the literal crafting of words, eventually turn those words over to actors, who envisage, interpret, and embody them onstage. Our job as playwrights is to take an idea and work that idea into the very specific form that is a play. Plays are marked by their characters, their conflict(s), their dialogue, and their physical immediacy onstage, and they are unlike any other literary genre.

In this class, we will be exploring the many facets of playwriting in a multi-pronged approach: discussion of the elements that comprise a play, exercises to generate and facilitate your own ideas and visions from their nascent origins all the way through to fruition, the analytical study and comparison of three contemporary plays, and the creation of a ten-minute play that will grow, by the end of the semester, into a full one-act play.


Requirements: In addition to regular attendance and participation in class discussions (10% of final grade), requirements for this course include assigned exercises from The Art & Craft of Playwriting (20% of final grade), a ten-minute play (10 pages), due at mid-term (30% of final grade), and a one-act play (at least 30 pages), due at the end of the semester (40% of final grade). Additional exercises and in-class writing will be assigned throughout the semester.