

NOV 27 1998

**DRAMA 3600**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PLAYWRITING 3(1-0-0)**  
**FALL/WINTER 1998**

**Instructor:** Karla Jean Parks, B.A., M.F.A.

**Office:** L111

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**DESCRIPTION:** Study of and practice in creating the elements of a play

**PRE-REQUISITE:** English 1010 and/or accepted submission of a writing sample (any genre) by the Fine Arts Department

**OBJECTIVES:** Introduction to basic techniques of playwriting

**SYLLABUS:**

- 1) Survey of various approaches to and theories of playwriting (a historical perspective)
- 2) Techniques of playwriting related to short, complete plays for the theatre (ref. *Playwriting from Formula to Form*, William Missouri Downs and Lou Anne Wright; 1998; *Playwriting: How to Write for the Theatre*, 1961, Bernard Grebanier; and *Writing, Producing, & Selling Your Play*, 1984, Louise Catron)
- 3) Study of objectives, dramatic action and subtext
- 4) The playwright/director relationship, getting your play produced

**METHODS:**

1. Study and discussion of reading material, taped and filmed interviews with established playwrights
2. Regular weekly writing assignments
3. In-class reading and critiquing of scripted material in progress
4. Two playwriting projects: First term - a series of scenes  
Second term - a one act play (to be produced)

**TEXT:**

Various reading materials on reserve in the Library

**GRADING:**

- 50% In-class term work
- 20% First term project
- 30% Final project (a complete and produced one-act play)