

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Scriptwriting for Theatre

2. COURSE CODE

WRIT3015

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. PREREQUISITES

Nil

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Cantonese

7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The course aims at helping students acquire basic concepts, knowledge and skills, and provide them with practical training in writing theatre play. It aims not only at conveying practical skills and techniques in theatre creation, but also helping students understand theatre as a distinguished art form, its aesthetics, and develop their own idea and style in theatre as an art.

8. COURSE CONTENT

1. Writing a play for theatre: how does it differ from television and film drama?
2. Style and aesthetic purpose: What kind of play do you want to write?
3. Reading masterpieces as examples: from Greek tragedy to modern theatre
4. Choosing a theme, constructing a plot, dramatic action and development
5. Division into acts and scenes
6. Creating a character
7. Writing lines and dialogues
8. Language: diction, rhythm, intonation
9. Language style: naturalistic, poetic, stylized

10. The role of space and time
11. Performance instructions
12. From script to performance

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the basic concepts and skills of theatre script writing as an art form and its difference from other drama forms like television and film script.
CILO 2	Apply skill in playwriting such as plot construction, scene division, character creation, writing dialogue suitable for stage performance, etc., through practical writing exercises and a final work.
CILO 3	Develop their idea and style of theatre by applying these knowledge and concepts in writing their own work.

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	In the lecture, students will be introduced basic knowledge and concepts of theatre and play writing, and will be given excerpts from masterpieces theatre for reading.
2	In the class exercises, students will be given different tasks according to the lecture topic: different methods of plot construction, character building, writing dialogues, etc. They may also be required to write theatre scripts of different forms: adaptation from literary fiction, adaptation from history, fantasy, realistic drama, psychological drama, tragedy, comedy, farce, etc., and different language styles such as naturalistic, poetic, stylized and choral, etc. Attention is paid to the relation between these different theatre forms and their appropriate language styles. Students may also "rehearse" their own works in the group reading session, and may discuss each other's work for further revision and improvement.
3	Students will be given the task of developing and writing their own full length play with step-by-step monitoring and consultation with the teacher.

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Written assignments	50 %	1, 2	Students will be given different tasks and written assignments in accordance with the respective lecture topic. They will be assessed according to

			the result of the assignments. The amount of the assignments and their respective requirements will be made known to the students either at the beginning of the course or in the lecture.
Final work	50 %	2, 3	Students will be required to write a full length play for more than an hour, with a coherent construction and the necessary performance instructions ready for staging.

Last Update: 2019-06-11
Published Date: 2022-12-23

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