

# DRAMATIC WRITING (DWPG-UT)

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## DWPG-UT 15 Summer Screenwriting (3 Credits)

*Typically offered Summer term*

The lectures given in this program explore the nature and principles of dramatic action, the relationship between character and circumstance, and how dramatic structure arises from these foundations. In the workshop sessions, students present their work, which is then reviewed, critiqued, and rewritten. In screenwriting, this process results in an outline and the partial scripting of a full-length screenplay; in playwriting, it culminates in a 10-minute play. Students work together as a repertory company to rehearse, critique, and rewrite their plays, and on the last day of classes, they perform their plays. In addition to the performance of the 10-minute plays, student monologues are directed and acted by professional actors and directors who work with the department on a regular basis. Readings of classic plays and screenplays and screenings of movies and tapes of important theatrical productions complement the course work. Students will also have guest lecturers in TV writing and several film story analysis sessions. Taken in conjunction with DWPG-UT 16 for a combined total of 6 units.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## DWPG-UT 16 Summer Playwriting (3 Credits)

*Typically offered Summer term*

The lectures given in this program explore the nature and principles of dramatic action, the relationship between character and circumstance, and how dramatic structure arises from these foundations. In the workshop sessions, students present their work, which is then reviewed, critiqued, and rewritten. In screenwriting, this process results in an outline and the partial scripting of a full-length screenplay; in playwriting, it culminates in a 10-minute play. Students work together as a repertory company to rehearse, critique, and rewrite their plays, and on the last day of classes, they perform their plays. In addition to the performance of the 10-minute plays, student monologues are directed and acted by professional actors and directors who work with the department on a regular basis. Readings of classic plays and screenplays and screenings of movies and tapes of important theatrical productions complement the course work. Students will also have guest lecturers in TV writing and several film story analysis sessions. Taken in conjunction with DWPG-UT 15 for a combined total of 6 units.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## DWPG-UT 18 Introduction to Dramatic Writing (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

This class, which is open to non-majors, provides an introduction to the basic elements needed to create a dramatic (of any kind, including comedic) script. Students will examine what it means to have a protagonist, antagonist, and conflict as well as learn to resolve conflict and create a story. Writing exercises will address each of these elements culminating in the writing of a thirty-minute play or screenplay. Examples of how these elements are used in great dramatic works will be drawn from play, film, and television. The intent of this class is to provide students with the tools necessary to do further dramatic writing.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## DWPG-UT 20 Craft of Dramatic and Visual Writing (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

This course is an intensive, semester-long introduction to the fundamentals of dramatic writing across the mediums of theater, film and episodic/tv. Plays, screenplays and episodic episodes will be read, viewed and analyzed for form and structure with emphasis on the common elements that the three mediums of playwriting, screenwriting and episodic writing share. Students will study and become familiar with terms like dramatic action, protagonist, antagonist, story goal, objective, norm, inciting incident, crisis, climax and resolution; terms which will be used in this course and in all Dramatic Writing classes going forward.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## DWPG-UT 21 Undergraduate Drama Lab I (2 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

This first year production course is the first part of a year-long course (with Drama Lab II) that is taken simultaneously with Craft. In this course, writers will wrestle with the practical and theoretical elements of seeing their work living and breathing in the hands and minds and bodies of others. Drama Lab I will focus on learning the basic skill sets of a writer's primary collaborators: actors and directors. Students will learn how both actors and directors look at a script and interpret words on a page, while acquiring the vocabulary to communicate successfully with each. Students in this class will take turns as writers, co-writers, directors and actors for each other's pieces, with peer-to-peer feedback led by the professor. New work will be developed by pushing the boundaries of what is possible for stage and screen. As this is a collaborative class, we will discuss consent, empowering the writer, the director and the actor in the room, learning how to have a voice in all of these roles, and understanding how having a voice in the room makes students better artists. Collaborating with other artists encourages growth, builds relationships, and often builds new confidence in writing students. We will find inspiration through music and art, to create worlds that the writer may not have imagined were in their wheelhouse. This class is not only for collaboration, but also for creation and experimentation of craft.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## DWPG-UT 22 Undergraduate Drama Lab II (2 Credits)

*Typically offered Spring*

This first year production course is the second part of a year-long course (with Drama Lab I) that is taken simultaneously with Playwriting I. In this course, writers will wrestle with the practical and theoretical elements of seeing their work living and breathing in the hands and minds and bodies of others. Drama Lab II will focus on gaining a more complex understanding of how to invite collaborators (directors, actors, producers, designers) into a student's work.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 30 Playwriting I (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Playwriting I begins with a vigorous review of the basic principles taught in Craft as they apply to playwriting. Students will concentrate on characterization, dialogue, and structure with an emphasis on identifying the stakes, turning points, climax and resolution of the drama. The course builds to an exploration of theatricality and how the use of physical action, props, movement, sound, and light are primary to the creation of a dramatic work for the stage. Playwriting at its core is about telling a story in the moment when an audience is gathered together in the same space as the performers. The course will return again and again to the notion of theatricality and what that means.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 35 Screenwriting I (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Students will examine the fundamental components of screenplay writing and screenplay structure through writing short scripts during the semester. Produced screenplays will be analyzed for structure and form. This is a workshop class; original work will be presented to the class for analysis and discussion throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 100 Greek Drama for Writers (4 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

This text analysis class will focus on classic Greek Drama and the impact it has had on modern dramatic writing. Greek drama is touchstone, an inspiration, and a source for adaptation; and this class will draw upon original Greek plays while making connections to contemporary works.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 101 Shakespeare for Writers (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This text analysis course is designed to impart to the modern dramatist an understanding of Shakespeare's technique and craft, providing specific examples of how it is used today by the best writers across the dramatic media of stage and screen. The class will focus on an intensive analysis of Shakespeare's plays. Various dramas from the 20-year span of Shakespeare's career will be sampled to investigate how he used structure, patterns, story, plot, character, language, meter, etc. to create works for a contemporary theater. Through discussions and written assignments, the class will expand a student's own dramatic skill set.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1015 Goldberg Masterclass in Playwriting (3 Credits)**

The focus of this class will be the writing and development of a new full-length play. To this end, students will be expected to bring in new and rewritten pages to be read and discussed in class. The play should not be one workshoped before, and students may not work on it concomitantly in another class. Each week, six students will bring in 10-15 new pages, so be prepared to have new pages read in class every other week. Since this is a writing workshop, students will be actively engaged with one another's work and will be expected to participate in feedback sessions.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1017 Masterclass in Screenwriting (3 Credits)**

This elective writing class focuses on a single area of study within screenwriting. A masterclass requires the writing of a full-length work, and is equivalent in workload to an advanced level writing class.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1040 Playwriting II (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Students will take what they've learned in Playwriting I and apply it to developing and writing an original, full-length play. Students will review the fundamental components of playwriting while exploring specific elements of scene, character, dialogue, theme, etc. that apply to full-length playwriting. While traditional playwriting models will be embraced, alternative narrative modes and avant-garde structures will also be introduced. This is a workshop class; students will present their work to the class for analysis and discussion throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1042 Episodic/TV Writing I: The Half-Hour (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Students will write a "spec" episode of an existing half-hour television series, and will outline an original half-hour pilot. In the lecture component of the class, emphasis will be placed on teaching the form's three act structure. The purpose of this class is to gain an understanding of how the half-hour episodic form differs from other dramatic forms.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1045 Screenwriting II (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Students will take what they've learned in Screenwriting I and apply it to developing and writing an original, full-length screenplay. Students will review the fundamental components of screenplay writing and structure while exploring specific elements of scene, character, dialogue, theme, etc. that apply to feature screenplay writing. This is a workshop class; work will be presented to the class for analysis and discussion throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1047 Masterclass in Episodic/TV Writing (3 Credits)***Typically offered not typically offered*

This elective writing class focuses on a single area of study within episodic series writing. A masterclass requires the writing of a full-length work, and is equivalent in workload to an advanced level writing class.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1048 Episodic/TV Writing II: The One-Hour (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Students will write a "spec" episode of an existing one-hour television series, and will outline an original hour-long pilot. In the lecture component of the class, emphasis will be placed on story structure and creating serialized drama. The purpose of this class is to gain an understanding of how to create a sustainable series franchise with long-term story engines.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1050 Advanced Playwriting (3 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

This is an advanced class for students who are serious about developing their playwriting skills. Initial class sessions will be devoted to a series of writing exercises to generate ideas, play with content, experiment with structure, and discover what and how students most want to write this semester. This class is about risk and experimentation. Students may begin something and throw it out; they should strive to build a play that excites them and feels truthful and vital.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1055 Advanced Screenwriting (3 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

Students will build on their experience of writing a full-length screenplay in Screenwriting II and repeat the process with a higher expectation for a completed screenplay. They will also be expected to write faster, and end the semester with a rewritten draft of their original screenplay. Students will review the fundamental components of screenplay writing and structure while exploring specific elements of scene, character, dialogue, theme, etc. that apply to feature screenplay writing. This is a workshop class; work will be presented to the class for analysis and discussion throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1060 BFA Capstone Project in Playwriting (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

The Playwriting Capstone project is a full-length play; students are required to come into this class with a draft of the play, preferably one developed in Advanced Playwriting, that they will work on and complete over the course of the semester. Capstone classes incorporate complete readings of all student works-in-progress to learn about the development process and experience it first-hand.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1065 BFA Capstone Project in Screenwriting (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

The Screenwriting Capstone project is a full-length screenplay; students are required to come into this class with a draft of the screenplay, preferably one developed in Advanced Screenwriting, that they will rewrite and complete over the course of the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1070 BFA Capstone in Episodic/TV Writing (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Students will take what they have learned in the previous classes, placing special emphasis on how a pilot generates long-form story and long-term character development, and write a pilot that incorporates all of these elements. They will also write a pitch document and/or a series bible, in addition to creating a series pitch. The goal of this class is for the student to incorporate all they have learned about story generation as well as long-form story and character development into an original work that shows mastery of the form.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1080 Masterclass Across Mediums: (3 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This elective writing class focuses on a single area of study across mediums. A masterclass requires the writing of a full-length work, and is equivalent in workload to an advanced level writing class.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1082 Writing Workshop (3 Credits)**

This elective writing class focuses on an area of study within the mediums of playwriting, screenwriting, and/or episodic series writing. In addition to writing assignments, students will also focus on text analysis, production and/or performance. A writing workshop does not require completion of a full-length work.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1103 Forms of Drama I (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

This text analysis course is an introductory lecture class taken simultaneously with Craft in which students are exposed to the specific kinds of dramatic writing used across the media of theater, film and episodic/tv – e.g., tragedy, farce, thriller, melodrama, etc. Students will learn the typical behavior and structures expressed in each of these forms. This course will use examples from theater, film and television to illustrate what makes dramatic writing work.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1105 Film Story Analysis: (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This text analysis course is designed to provide a platform for an in-depth study of how the story of a film is presented, what choices are made by the author, how information is offered or withheld and what effect this has on the drama. This class will be an “anthology” of different works, each selected for a different aspect of storytelling, exploring how the stylistic choices, themes, and dramatic devices reveal themselves within the body of work. The course is designed to better help students organize their own narratives by analyzing the techniques employed by various screenwriters in constructing their screenplays. A selection of films will be screened and discussed in terms of continuity of theme; delineation of plot, development of structure, protagonist’s story purpose, dialogue as action and character. After each screening, the instructor will lead a group discussion and analysis of the film, focusing further on the techniques, conventions and devices employed by the screenwriter to both tell a good story and satisfy the demands of the audience.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1106 Play Survey: Modern Drama (4 Credits)**

This text analysis course is an introductory lecture class taken simultaneously with Playwriting I. This course surveys dramatic literature from Ancient Greece to modern times, with emphasis on the changing conventions, forms, techniques and styles of playwriting. Plays will be read for content and analysis.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1107 Film Survey (4 Credits)**

This text analysis course is an introductory lecture class taken simultaneously with Screenwriting I. This course surveys movies from early silent films to movies of today. It will focus on a broad spectrum of the different styles, genres and types of narrative films. The course will survey studio films and independent films, American films and international films. Movies will be screened and screenplays will be read and analyzed for story, structure, character and history.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1108 Episodic/TV Series Survey (4 Credits)**

This text analysis course is an introductory lecture class taken simultaneously with Episodic/TV Writing I. This course surveys post WWII television up to the episodic series of present day across TV, streaming services and beyond. It will focus on a broad spectrum of the different styles, modes and types of episodic programming, including dramatic, comedic and everything in between. Shows will be screened and scripts will be read and analyzed for story, structure, character and history.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1110 TV Story Analysis (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This text analysis course is designed to provide a platform for an in-depth study of how the story of a show is presented, what choices are made by the author, how information is offered or withheld and what effect this has on the drama. This class will be an "anthology" of different works, each selected for a different aspect of storytelling, exploring how the stylistic choices, themes, and dramatic devices reveal themselves within the body of work. This class examines the history and evolution of television/episodic, from the early days up to the present, with an eye toward how storytelling has changed and evolved. Various genres and shows will be viewed and discussed as we not only analyze the unique episodic universe but also connect what was going on in television to the larger currents of American culture and history, and see what lessons there might be for people who plan to work in episodic now.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**DWPG-UT 1116 Play Story Analysis (4 Credits)**

This text analysis course is designed to provide a platform for an in-depth study of how the story of a play is presented. This class will be an "anthology" of different works, each selected for a different aspect of storytelling, or it will center around a single playwright's (or group of playwrights') work, exploring how the stylistic choices, themes, and dramatic devices reveal themselves within the body of work. The course is designed to better help students organize their own narratives by analyzing the techniques employed by various playwrights in constructing their plays.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1150 Advanced Episodic/TV Writing: Series (3 Credits)**

*Typically offered occasionally*

Students will come into this class with a pilot they have already written. They will rewrite that pilot and create a "series document" that demonstrates the tone and rationale of the series, a detailed description of the remainder of the first season, and a less detailed description of following seasons. The purpose of this class is to teach long-term story and character development and learn how a pilot serves as a "story engine."

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1202 Rehearsal Process (3 Credits)**

*Typically offered occasionally*

The Rehearsal Process is a production class in which student playwrights engage with professional directors and actors on a script-workshopping process. Playwrights will work on previously written scripts. The purpose of this class to re-think, re-imagine, re-work, and rewrite existing material; and to discover how to use rehearsal time to further those processes.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**DWPG-UT 1300 Undergraduate Internship (1-6 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Students experience the profession of the dramatist from "the other side of the desk" by working in a professional organization that develops and or produces the work of dramatists. Minor assignments required. Seek assistance for an internship with TOCD or Kanbar Internship Coordinator. DW Students are required to complete at least 3 credits of internship. 1 credit = approximately 50 hours worked over the course of the semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Pass/Fail

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**DWPG-UT 1301 Professional Colloquium (2 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This is a discussion-based class that bridges academic life to a student's future professional career in theater, film and episodic writing. This class is designed to help students build the skills, obtain the tools, and uncover the questions to ask in order to enter the lifelong practice of living (and thriving) as a professional writer. Discussion topics will include: creating necessary application materials, self-producing, networking techniques and tools, self-advocacy, supplemental income jobs, financial literacy, working in multiple mediums, scheduling and time management, how to find artistic homes and collaborators, how and when to pursue representation, the distinction between agents and managers, and presenting oneself as a multi-hyphenate artist. The keystone of the class is frequent guest speakers who've built successful and varied careers within the industry, along with assignments designed to deepen each student's curiosity, personal career objectives, and competitive edge in these constantly adapting fields. Students should take this course in their junior year.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**DWPG-UT 1400 Undergraduate Independent Study (1-4 Credits)**

*Typically offered not typically offered*

Independent Studies may not replace required course work. To request an Independent Study, students must complete an Application for Independent Study and write a Plan for Independent Study that must be approved by the supervising faculty member and the chair. Supervising faculty must be a full-time faculty member (please see the Application for a complete list.) Applications are available from the Academic Administrator. Approvals are based upon the student's ability to work independently and on the student's academic record.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**DWPG-UT 1405 Loving The Living Playwright (3 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

This is a production workshop for playwrights, led by The Public Theater's Master Writer and Arts Professor Suzan-Lori Parks. Each week playwrights present bare-bones staged readings, excerpts of their previously written work. Writers are paired off, with one writer serving as "playwright" and the other as "director." Working with professional actors, students will strengthen their writing chops by getting work on its feet for class discussion and feedback. "Playwright" and "Director" pairings change weekly, giving each writer multiple opportunities to explore the possibilities of their own written work. Students must have previously written dramatic material that's ready for production-workshop. Each playwright will commit to working on ONE of their plays for the entire semester.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**DWPG-UT 1408 Steinberg Theatre Workshop (3 Credits)***Typically offered occasionally*

The Steinberg Theater Workshop is a production class in which student playwrights engage with professional directors and actors on a script-workshopping process. Playwrights will work on previously written scripts. The purpose of this class is to re-think, re-imagine, re-work, and rewrite existing material; and to discover how to use rehearsal time to further those processes.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**DWPG-UT 1630 Comedic Strategies (4 Credits)**

This text analysis course examines the essential elements of storytelling through the analysis of comedy in theater, film, television and beyond. It will focus on comedic works in all mediums of comedy starting with Aristophanes then moving away from him as quickly as possible. The class will demonstrate how comedy is a living, evolving thing that reflects where we are as people and tells the truth. Popular culture is always telling us something; even when it doesn't know it's telling us something. From satire to sketch and stand-up, the course will explore how jokes can chip away at entrenched ideas and create community. Examples of readings and viewings will be analyzed for character, story, plot, structure, theme and technique.

**Grading:** Ugrd Tisch Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No