

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 4764-001: Play Writing

Lania Knight
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 4764, **Play Writing**
 Fall 2011, T/Th 12:30-1:45pm, Coleman Hall 3150

Professor Lania Knight, PhD
 Coleman Hall 3751, 581-6121
 Office Hours: TBA; Email: ldknight@eiu.edu

This is an intermediate level course in the art and craft of writing solo plays. In this course, students will:

1. Read, observe, and analyze solo plays
2. Attend and review two live performances: Heather Carver and *Volpone*
3. Respond in writing to course material
4. Write several short solo plays
5. Participate in workshop during class, which includes reading aloud your plays
6. Attend the EIU Playwright's Workshop
7. Give a rehearsed performance of one solo play, either during class or at An Evening of Solo Plays (TBA).

Required Text:

Catron, Louis E. *The Power of One: The Solo Play for Playwrights, Actors, and Directors*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. 2009.

Supplemental Text:

Boal, Augusto. *Games for Actors and Non-Actors, 2nd Ed.* Adrian Jackson, trans. New York: Routledge. 2004.

Grades:

Weekly Responses	300
<i>Volpone</i> Review	100
Carver Response	100
Solo Play I	100
Solo Play II	100
Final Performance	200
Final Reflection	100
Total	1000 points

Academic Honesty

Please note the English Department's statement on plagiarism (that is, the intentional or unintentional use of another writer's intellectual property without proper acknowledgment):

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Students with Documented Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, you must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services; you should contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Be Prepared for Class

To prepare for each class, please do the following:

1. Bring your textbook(s) and “monodrama notebook” with you to class (see Catron pp. 17-18)
2. Read the assigned material **before** class
3. Respond to the assigned reading in your notebook **before** class

Weekly Responses

Please bring your monodrama notebook to class each day. In addition to your preparatory writing for your solo plays, you will write responses to the readings, which are to be shared with the class. Each response is worth around 20 points and should be comprised of the following:

*A **List of Ten**, which means ten of anything about the reading, such as words you needed to look up, items you found interesting or confusing, phrases you had questions about. **ANYTHING GOES**. Write page and paragraph numbers so the class can follow along with you during discussion.

OR

***Responses** to the numbered exercises listed for the class.

Attendance

I do not keep attendance, but rather, give points toward **Weekly Responses** if you attend class and have a written response that you read out loud. If you are not present, if you do not have a response, or if you do not read it out loud, you will not receive points for that day’s Daily Response. Exceptions will be made only for documented emergencies and documented school team sport activities.

EIU Playwright’s Workshop

These workshops offer time for your to practice your solo play in front of an audience outside of the classroom, or you can share other dramatic writing you are working on. These will take place in the Movement Studio in Doudna, dates/times TBA.

Heather Carver

Heather Carver, associate professor of Theatre at the University of Missouri, will give a performance at Doudna Fine Arts Center at 7pm on Wednesday, September 28th. Please plan on attending. You will write a response of 750–1000 words about her performance and the workshop. She will also give a hands-on workshop for developing solo play material, TBA.

***Volpone* at Doudna Fine Arts Center**

You must attend one performance of *Volpone* at the Doudna Fine Arts Center and write a review of 750–1000 words. *Volpone* runs Wednesday, October 26th – Sunday, October 30th. You need a ticket or a signed program (signed and dated by an usher, cast member, or the director) from the performance, which you will turn in with your review.

Final Reflection:

Write a 5–6 page reflection on the course, the plays you wrote, your experience of your final performance, and any other material relevant to your development as a playwright. Graduate Students: your reflection must be 10–12 pages long.

Tentative ScheduleWeek One

Tuesday, 8/23: Introduction and overview

Thursday, 8/25: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter One, pages 1–18

Week Two

Tuesday, 8/30: Discuss *The Power of One* Appendix, pages 208–217

Thursday, 9/1: Discuss *The Power of One* Appendix, pages 217–233

Week Three

Tuesday, 9/6: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Two, pages 19–48

Thursday, 9/8: Discuss responses to #1 & #3 on pages 48–9 of *The Power of One*

Week Four

Tuesday, 9/13: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Three, pages 51–62

Thursday, 9/15: Discuss responses to #1–5 on pages 62–3 of *The Power of One*

Week Five

Tuesday, 9/20: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Four, pages 64–91

Thursday, 9/22: Discuss responses to #4–7 on page 92 of *The Power of One*

Week Six

Tuesday, 9/27: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Five, pages 94–114 AND responses to #1–8 on pages 114–116

Wednesday, 9/28: Attend Heather Carver performance at Doudna Black Box, 7pm

Thursday, 9/29: Workshop with Heather Carver

Week Seven

Tuesday, 10/4: DUE: Response to Heather Carver workshop & performance; Workshop

Thursday, 10/6: Workshop

Week Eight

Tuesday, 10/11: Workshop

Thursday, 10/13: Workshop

Week Nine

Tuesday, 10/18: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Six, pages 118–144

Thursday, 10/20: Discuss responses to #1–5 on page 145 of *The Power of One*

Week Ten

Attend *Volpone* at Doudna

Tuesday, 10/25: Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Seven, pages 147–175

Thursday, 10/27: Discuss responses to #1–3 on page 175 of *The Power of One*

Week Eleven

Tuesday, 11/1: DUE: *Volpone* Review; Discuss *The Power of One*, Chapter Eight, pages 177–207

Thursday, 11/3: Discuss information gathered from websites on pages 204–7

Week Twelve

Tuesday, 11/8: Workshop

Thursday, 11/11: Workshop

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, 11/15: Workshop

Thursday, 11/18: Workshop

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, 11/22: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday, 11/24: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, 11/29: Revision Workshop

Thursday, 12/1: Revision Workshop

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, 12/6: Final Performances

Thursday, 12/8: Final Performances

Final reflection essay due by Monday, December 12th at 3pm.