

2018-19 Fall

**HART1024**

## **Introduction to Creative Cantonese Playwriting**

Course Instructor: Mr. Wu Hoi Fai (Email: [wuhoifai@ust.hk](mailto:wuhoifai@ust.hk))

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Time: Monday; 3:00-4:50 pm

Venue: CYTG009 A&B

Office Hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is to introduce the basic elements of playwriting. Students will be encouraged to express their concerns and feelings through drama. They will also learn to appreciate a play and have a preliminary understanding of Hong Kong theatre. Representative plays in the world drama repertoire, with emphasis on Hong Kong theatre, will be selected for illustration in class. Each student is expected to write a short play at the end of the course. They will be guided through practical exercises to find and develop the materials for writing the play. **[Ca][C]**

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Comprehend the basic elements of a play
2. Express their views and feelings in playwriting
3. Enhance communication and collaboration skills
4. Acquire an overview of Hong Kong playwriting

## Syllabus and Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Matching ILO
1	3 Sept	<b>Introduction to dramatic writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce playwriting as a special kind of writing, and its particular conventions (a blueprint for future theatre performances)</li> <li>Uniqueness of playwriting, and how it compares with other art forms.</li> </ul>	ILO 1
2	10 Sept	<b>The uniqueness of playwriting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The blueprint for a performance</li> <li>A series of pictures with speeches</li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
3	17 Sept	<u>Class activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Improvise a series of pictures to illustrate a news story</i></li> <li><i>Telling a story without verbal elements</i></li> <li><i>Creating a scene with dialogues</i></li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
4	24 Sept	<b>Finding the materials from your life</b> <u>Class activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Creating a series of pictures to illustrate a particularly impressive incident in one's life.</i></li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
	1 Oct	<b>Public holiday</b>	
5	8 Oct	<b>Finding the materials from your life</b> <u>Class activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Creating a series of pictures to illustrate a particularly impressive incident in one's life.</i></li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
6	15 Oct	<b>Building up the materials</b>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
7	22 Oct	<u>Class activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Adding dialogues to build a complete scene.</i></li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
8	29 Oct	<b>Developing the materials</b> <p>To identify and explain basic elements of a play such as conflict and characters.</p>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
9	5 Nov	<u>Class activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The students will be guided to use these elements to re-examine and improve their scene.</i></li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3
10	12 Nov	<b>Learning from the masters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze representative examples of world and local drama repertoire</li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 3 / 4
11	19 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand how a playwright develops a sound structure for a play, creates characters to propel the action and explores an issue on stage.</li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 3 / 4

12	26 Nov	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of students' whole creative process and their theatre reviews</li> <li>• Consolidate what students have learnt and resolve possible queries.</li> <li>• Students share their play scripts in class and discuss with their classmates and the instructor.</li> <li>• Introduce potential directions for students who are interested in continuing their creative work.</li> </ul>	ILO 1 / 2 / 3 / 4
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### Assessment Tasks

<p><b>Attendance (10%) &amp; Course Participation (10%)</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students are expected to attend classes and participate in discussions and critiques.</li> <li>2. The student is required to be actively involved in the practical exercises and discussion in class.</li> </ol> <p>Attendance will be taken in the beginning of each session after the add-drop period. Being late or leaving early more than <b>10 mins</b> twice will be counted as one absence. For each absence, students will have 1% deducted from their attendance grade.</p> <p>Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes; i.e. students may not be absent for more than 3 sessions, for any reasons such as illness or other university functions.</p>
<p><b>A written review of a Hong Kong theatre performance (30%)</b></p>	<p>The student is required to attend a Hong Kong theatre performance chosen by them. Afterwards, they are required to write a review with the framework taught in class. The students need to hand in the review by <b><u>Week 11 (12 Nov)</u></b>. Word limit: <b>800 words</b>.</p> <p>10% of the review will be deducted per day after the due date. Submissions will not be accepted one week after due date.</p>
<p><b>A short written play (50%)</b></p>	<p>The student is required to submit a written play of 15-20 minute long (About <b>1,500 words</b>). Students are expected to start building up their script from the middle of the course. Students will hand in the assignment by <b><u>Week 12 (19 Nov)</u></b>.</p> <p>10% of the play will be deducted per day after the due date. Submissions will not be accepted one week after due date.</p>

## Major Learning Resources

1. *The Blunt Playwright: an Introduction to Playwriting*, Clem Martini, Toronto, Canada: Playwrights Canada Press, 2006
2. 《伊狄帕斯王》，翻譯：黎翠珍，香港：香港浸會大學翻譯學研究中心：國際演藝評論家協會（香港分會），2005
3. 《我和春天有個約會》，杜國威，香港：次文化堂，1995

## Recommended Learning Materials

1. *Playwriting: a practical guide*, Noel Greig, London; New York: Routledge, 2005
2. *The Playwright's Guidebook*, Stuart Spencer, New York: Faber and Faber, Inc., 2002
3. *How Play Works*, David Edgar, London: Nick Hern, 2009
4. 《編劇知識與編劇技巧》，孫少文，昆明：雲南大學出版社，1994
5. 《玩偶家族》（易卜生戲劇全集二），翻譯：呂健忠，台北縣新店市：左岸文化，2004
6. 《野豬》，莊梅岩，香港：香港藝術節協會有限公司，2012
7. 杜國威，《南海十三郎》，香港次文化堂，1995
8. 潘惠森，《雞春咁大隻甲由兩頭岳》，1996
9. 佛琳編 (2003)，《八色風采：香港劇本十年集：九十年代》，香港：國際演藝評論家協會（香港分會），2003

## Academic Honor Code

- You must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work you do throughout your program of study.
- As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
- Sanctions will be imposed if you are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (<http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html>)