

ADA4M1: 12 College/University Drama
Mrs. Panagiotoglou
Fall 2010
ISU PROJECT

The purpose of this assignment is to have students take a more comprehensive look at modern Canadian Playwrights, to gain a further understanding of Canadian theatre and drama. This assignment is weighted to be **20%** of the final mark in the course. All parts must be completed in order to pass the assignment.

In this assignment you will choose one major playwright from modern Canadian theatre and complete the following parts (each is weighted accordingly as a part of the 20% towards the final course mark):

Part A: Research Paper on the life of your playwright (5% of the final course mark)

Part B: Play, Scene and Character Analysis of a play written by your playwright (5% of the final course mark)

Part C: Write a One-Act play (3-5 scenes) approximately 20-25 pages long (including stage directions), with a running time of 20-25 minutes. This play should be written in the style of the Canadian Playwright that you studied for the first part of the ISU assignment. (10% of the final course mark)

List of Some Modern Canadian Playwrights

1. George F. Walker
2. Dennis Foon
3. Drew Hayden Taylor
4. David French
5. Dave Carley
6. Sharon Pollock
7. Ken Mitchell
8. Aviva Ravel
9. Ken Gass
10. Judith Thompson

ISU Requirements:

Part A: Research Paper (5% of Final Mark)

Research your assigned modern Canadian playwright, and write a 750-1000 word report with the following headings:

- ✓ **The Playwright and Their Passion** (A brief history of where they were from, their experience in the theatre, their education, what or who influenced them, and their contribution to modern theatre.)
- ✓ **Style and Forms Employed by the Playwright** (A brief description of the style of theatre and the elements utilized by the playwright.)
- ✓ **Themes Explored** (A brief description of the evident themes in the playwright's general body of work.)
- ✓ **Written Accomplishments** (A discussion of published works most importantly plays, and brief synopsis of the play you are going to read.)

Remember to use proper paragraph structure and all paragraphs should be unified. This assignment must be written using MLA format for citation, it must use at least 4 credible sources (Wikipedia is not a credible source). Your sources must include one printed text, such as a textbook, or encyclopaedia, etc., two interest sites, and one database). If you are unsure what a credible source is, then please see me for clarification.

ISU Requirements Continued:

Part B: Play, Scene and Character Analysis (5% of Final Mark)

Read a play by your chosen modern Canadian Playwright. Then complete the following notes:

I: Reader's Notes for Every Scene: In point-form, you will outline what happened during the scene (the main events from the plot). Then provide a one paragraph description on either character development for one character, what theme is being developed by the playwright or how the conflict is evolving. You will then provide two lines from the scene to prove your point from your paragraph that explains the sub-text or underlying significance.

II: A Scene Study: Choose one scene from the play after you have finished the Reader's Notes, and then complete the following questions:

1. Which characters are the main focus of the scene?
2. Why are they the main focus for the audience?
3. What is their purpose in the plot?
4. How do their actions move the plot forward?
5. How does the scene develop the central conflict?
6. Are there any new plot details revealed to the audience?
7. Are there any issues for one or more characters that get "solved" in this scene?
8. Could the play go on without this scene? Why or why not?
9. Does the playwright provide stage directions for the actors? If so, does the use of them help bring realism to the text? If not provided, could the use of stage directions help make the play be performed more easily? Why or why not?

III: A Character Analysis: Choose one of the characters from the play you read, and answer the following questions:

1. Does the character make just or unjust choices?
2. Were the character's actions wise or unwise?
3. What is the character's motivation (why have they done the things that they have)?
4. What are the effects of the character's behaviour on other characters?
5. What events before the play plot occurs have directly influenced who this character is?
6. Are there any repeatedly used words that describe the character? Why are they used? Provide examples of plot events that surround the use of these words.
7. Are there any symbols or items associated with the character? What are they? What do they represent to that character?
8. Is the character "flat" or "round"? A character is considered flat (or static) when he or she does not experience change of any kind, does not grow from beginning to end. Round characters are those who do experience some sort of growth. Why are they that type of character? What does the type of character do for the plot?
9. Does this character evolved during the story? If so, does this character directly influence the outcome of the play?

ISU Requirements Continued:

Part C: One-Act Play (10% of final mark)

Write a One-Act play that is 3-5 scenes, approximately 20-25 pages, and 20-25 minutes in running length. Your play should be written in the style of the modern Canadian Playwright that you researched and read during your ISU. Your play must include the following:

- A conflict: What problem(s) or obstacle(s) will your main character(s) face?
- A well-defined plot – make sure that your play makes sense
- Multiple scenes – a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 scenes
- Stage directions – in italics
- Interesting dialogue – consider the language/vocabulary and vernacular of all the characters considering their social class.
- A Cast of Characters – in the order that they appear (with descriptions)
- Effective main character(s) – include both round and flat characters.
- A Theme – what is the main message of your play? What is the point?
- Evidence of both healthy and toxic relationships
- Minimal spelling and grammar errors (yes, these will be marked!)
- Two (2) monologues, one by a male character, and one by a female character

Four (4) Grade 12 plays will be chosen from all the plays submitted for this assignment, to be performed at the end of the semester. Be aware that this should be your very best work, as it might be picked for production. If your play is chosen, you will then be taking on the role of director and producer, and will be marked for your work in this stagecraft role in addition to any role that you might take on as an actor.