

## ENG 223C: Creative Writing - Drama

*aka: How to Write Theatre with Gutz*

👉 👉 *Beto's Made up Title for this Class* 👉 👉

### **Course Information**

#### **Class Meeting Times and Modalities:**

- Wednesday: 1:20-4:20

**Location: Pace (E307)**

### **Contact Information**

**Instructor Name(s):** Beto O'Byrne

**Email:** bobyne@pace.edu

**Preferred Contact Method:** email

**Office hours:** Mondays 2-4pm (*contact Beto if you need time outside of this*)

Office hours by appointment only and on Zoom!

### **Official Course description (from the university course catalog)**

As an introduction to the art of playwriting, this course is structured to acquaint students with the necessary creative building blocks of character, action, setting, event, and performance. This class explores what makes a good play, emphasizing the development of both stories and playwriting techniques.

### **Beto's Course Description**

You are here to learn how to love writing for the theatre and for live performances.

You are here to learn how writing can be a creative, incredible outlet for your self-expression. You are here to learn how your writing can fit into, and be inspired by, the long list of badass playwrights and theatremakers who placed their thoughts down in such a way that made them immortal.

So I think you are here to learn how to become immortal.

Prerequisites: n/a

## **Course learning objectives**

In this course, we will ...

1. Work to understand what compels us, what drives us, and how we can always write from this place of passion.
2. Experiment with a variety of techniques that we can add to our creative toolbox
3. Use our personal biographies, world views, and cultures to express our inner truths as we understand them in this moment of radical change and how to express them in a theatrical context.
4. Explore how we can use playwriting to craft bold stories that challenge our communities and ourselves.
5. Develop a method of receiving and sharing feedback to help our fellow writers, and ourselves, achieve our creative visions.

## **Instructional Materials**

For this class, you need the following:

**One Composition Notebook/Journal.** Go to any bookstore, any 99c store, office supply store, or (if you dare!!!) an art store like Blick, and browse their journals. Go through them until you see the option that yells at you:

YO!  
YOU!  
YOU WANT TO WRITE IN ME!  
YOU WANT TO FILL ME WITH ALL YOUR AWESOME IDEAS!  
PIIIICK MEEEE!

Personally, my favorite is the [Moleskine 5x8.5 Cahier Journals](#) with no lines. They are light enough that I can take it with me anywhere I go but sturdy with nice paper and easy to write in.

But this is what I like. What do you like? Go find that option!

**A pen with which you will write.** That same store will inevitably sell pens BUT you can go somewhere else if you are feeling like having an adventure. And we want PENS not pencils. We want to be able to scratch out words, etc

Explore the options find the pen you want. Which one feels good in your hands. Which one writes in a way that makes your handwriting look great. What color ink? What weight? What shape?

Again if you need a suggestion, my current favorite pen is the [uni-ball Jetstream RT Retractable Rollerball Pen](#) with black ink. It's cheap enough that I can carry them around and not get sad when I inevitably lose them, but they write wonderfully and feel great. I also really like the [Zebra F-301 Pen](#) for similar reasons - it's a bit heavier so if you like to feel the weight of your pen it may also be a great option for you.

**What is important is that you explore and choose your journal and pen(s) among a set of alternatives.**

**Your Willingness, Bravery, and Full-Self**

Every playwright I love is daring, bold, and passionate. They create theatre that terrifies them and what fills them with infinite joy. They imagine worlds and possibilities that humans can only manifest in the deepest recesses of their minds when existing in their dreamworld realities.

I am challenging you to do the same.  
We will hold each other to this standard.  
I know you can do it

**Inspirational texts**

These will be supplied by your instructor. This list is being selected at this time and will (probably) include material by the following authors (in alpha):

- *Endgame by Samuel Beckett*
- *By the Bog of Cats by Marina Carr*
- *The Motherfucker with the Hat by Stephen Adly Guirgis*
- *Is God Is by Alesha Harris*
- *Heroes and Saints by Cheri Moraga*
- *She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen*
- *Venus by Suzan Lori Parks*

**Grading Policy**

Because this is school, we must have grades. I think a lot about how we “grade” ourselves in a writing course, which is ultimately a journey that we will all start at different places.

Ultimately, I think about your grade as the contract between us. It is a way to evaluate our accountability to one another. What this means will be different for all of us. Hopefully, we can agree on a few key elements:

1. We must write to be successful in a writing class
2. We must show up for ourselves and our fellow writers
3. We must set ourselves challenges and work to achieve them

The way I (approximately) align these elements and Pace’s grading policies are as follows:

Class Participation/Completion	13%
Attendance (14 classes)	28%
Writing Assignments (7 total)	21%
Weekly Writings (15 total)	28%
Final Project	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

A more detailed explanation is located below in the section “[Quick Sheet for Assignments and Due Dates](#)”

Pace University's grading scale (%) is as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89.99
- C = 70-79.99
- D = 60-69.99
- F = 0-59.99

### Assignments & Homework (Subject to Change!)

Through this class, each playwright (that's you!) will write, and rewrite A TEN MINUTE PLAY that we will present at the end of class. To do so, we will write and participate in the following: as follows:

1. Guided, in-class writing assignments
2. Weekly Writing Assignments
3. Larger writing Assignments
4. Guided Feedback Systems

This work is designed to help you explore your craft as a playwright, and understand how you can bring your full, creative self to any future writing you will create.

Students are evaluated by their willingness to complete projects and engage with and participate in the creative process. If this sounds vague, don't worry! All will be made clear in class. :)

### **Course Accountability**

Any creative act, and especially the writing process, is ultimately a challenge in showing up. The blank page will not be filled with our ideas, and the world will not receive them if we do not sit down and put them on paper.

Writers Write. Simple as that.

So we have to show up. For ourselves and for our community. The world desperately needs your words, whether it realizes it or not. Because your words can inspire revolutions. Your words can dissolve oppressions and illuminate unforeseen truths.

The ugly truth of it is that there are powerful forces that are designed to block your vision and your truths from coming out. Some of these systemic: Jobs. Other classes. Subways that are always late. Some are our own blocks that we put up. My work wasn't good enough to share. I'm just not up to it today. All the things. Right?

Writers Write. Simple as that.

So we have to show up. We are here to forge ahead. And it's those times when the above blocks appear when we need to show up the most. When it's the most important. When it matters most.

As such we have an accountability system for this class. That accountability system is as follows:

- We agree to attend all in-person classes, online sessions, and other programming to our fullest ability.
- We agree to fully participate and share the experience of being in this class with our peers and instructor to our fullest ability.
- We agree to hold ourselves to the highest standard and will meet the demands of work including when, how, and what we present.

So what does “fullest ability” mean? It means that we recognize that there are going to be times when life makes attending and participating impossible. Or possibly harmful. This class is not our sole priority. But it is a priority. Attending and Participating is the norm. It is the expectation that our writing and our creative selves, and our deep-down-chakra-selves demand. And as such, when we don’t attend, when we don’t participate, we accept our accountability when we fail ourselves and our community.

As such we agree to the following:

#### Attendance Agreement

We agree that there is ONE EXCUSED ABSENCE. If I do not attend class, I will notify the instructor to the best of my abilities and at least 24 hrs (if possible) of this absence. This is what an “excused absence means in this class.

If I miss a class beyond this point:

1. I will lose 2pts for each absence and I will not receive any credit for participation for that day.
2. I am responsible for determining what I missed and will talk with others in the class to find out what I missed (the instructor is not responsible for catching up a student who misses class)
3. If an assignment was due or to be presented, I will not receive credit
4. If an assignment was accomplished in class, I will not receive credit
5. If I miss more than three classes, I have not been accountable to myself or my community. I will not be able to pass this class without a conversation with the professor.

#### Participation

We agree to fully participate in all discussions as best as we can:

1. We will provide feedback and responses to shared work with openness, kindness, and grace to the creators
2. We will learn and use Liz Lerman’s Critical Response System
3. When asked to respond, we will do so.
4. We keep all phones, tablets, and laptops stored during class.
5. If I have an issue in class, If I feel unsafe, I will contact the instructor. If I am comfortable doing so, I will contact my academic advisor to discuss the appropriate actions.

If we do not honor these agreements we will be held accountable, and we may be asked to address this in class, may need to discuss with the instructor outside of class, and it is possible I may be asked to remove myself from the class, which will result in me not receiving credit for it.

### Assignments Due Date and Late Assignments

We all agree to turn in assignments on time, to hold ourselves accountable, and to support the work of our fellow writers and the instructor.

If I do not turn it in on time, my work will be docked 25% points. After three days, students may turn in the paper by the end of the class with the maximum availability of 50% of the total.

### Plagiarism

I will only submit my own work. To submit someone else's work as my own is one of the most disrespectful acts I can commit in a writing class. I will not do it.

If I am caught for plagiarism I agree to leave the class immediately. I will not receive credit. I am aware that the instructor will inform the Writing Department, who will determine what further actions to take, and from that point on, the instructor will not be involved and is not responsible for what happens.

## **Professor Agreements and Policies**

### **Preparation and Accountability**

#### **Correspondence and Office Hours**

### **Course Schedule and Assignments**

For the complete schedule, please refer to **ENG 223C: Course Schedule**, available via the following link and will also be on our online platform:

- ENG 223C: Course Schedule: [ENG223C - Course Schedule](#)

Please note that Monday and Wednesday are IN-PERSON and our Fridays will be a mix of Online classes, field trips, group conversations, and one-on-one conferences.

- Quick Sheet for Assignments and Due Dates (subject to change):  
[ENG223 - Assignments-DueDates](#)

University Policies and Resources

***Academic Integrity***

Students in this course are required to adhere to Pace University's Academic Integrity Code. The Academic Integrity Code supports honesty and ethical conduct in the educational process. It educates students about what constitutes academic misconduct, helps to deter cheating and plagiarism, and provides a procedure for handling cases of academic misconduct. Students are expected to be familiar with the Code, which can be found under "University Policies" in the [Student Handbook](#). Individual schools and programs may have additional standards of academic integrity. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the policies of the schools, programs, and courses in which they are enrolled.

Instructions for faculty, a paper about best practices, and the form for reporting integrity policy violations are posted on the [Provost's webpage under policies and forms](#). Reporting forms should be sent to the Chairs of the Academic Conduct Committee on each campus.

***Learning Centers***

[The Learning Center](#) uses an array of programs and a holistic approach to assist students with academic skills and content knowledge. We are dedicated to developing independent learners by creating purposeful interactions with trained, well-qualified peer and professional staff.

***Procedure for Students Who Wish to Obtain Reasonable Accommodations for a Course:***

The University's commitment to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities includes providing reasonable accommodations for the needs of students with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation for a qualified disability a student with a disability must self-identify and register with Student Accessibility Services for his or her campus. No one, including faculty, is authorized to evaluate the need for or grant a request for an accommodation except Student Accessibility Services. Moreover, no one, including faculty, is authorized to contact Student Accessibility Services on behalf of a student. For further information, please see [the Resources for Students with Disabilities page](#).

***Technological Resources:***

- List of all [Pace Information Technology Services](#).
- For assistance with a technological concern (Blackboard, Internet, Computer, etc.), contact the Pace Helpdesk at 914-773-3648 or create a [help desk ticket](#).
- Visit the [Learning Remotely website](#)

***Appropriate Use Policy for Information Technology:***

Pace endorses the following statement on software and intellectual rights distributed by EDUCAUSE, the non-profit consortium of colleges and universities, committed to the use and management of information technology in higher education. The statement reads:

*Respect for intellectual labor and creativity is vital to academic discourse and enterprise. This principle applies to work of all authors and publishers in all media. It encompasses respect for the right to acknowledgment, right to privacy and right to determine the form, manner and terms of publication and distribution.*

*Because electronic information is volatile and easily reproduced, respect for the work and personal expression of others is especially critical in computer environments. Violations of authorial integrity, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access and trade secret and copyright violations, may be grounds for sanctions against members of the academic community.*

[Pace's appropriate use policy](#) applies to recordings of classroom instruction and digital artifacts created by faculty and students.

***Sex-Based Misconduct Policy and Procedure:***

Pace University is committed to providing a safe environment for every member of its community and to ensuring that no student, faculty or staff member is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of any University program or activity on the basis of sex. Accordingly, the University prohibits the following forms of Sex-Based Misconduct: sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and stalking.

Instructors are a **non-confidential** resource and have an obligation to report any information about sexual assault with the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator (Bernard Dufresne, [bdufresne@pace.edu](mailto:bdufresne@pace.edu), 163 Williams Street, Room 1017, 212-346-1310). The Title IX/Affirmative Action Office is responsible for investigating violations of the sexual misconduct policy. For more information about the Pace University sexual misconduct policy, see the [Sex-Based Misconduct Policy and Procedure \(PDF\)](#).

Members of the University community who believe that they have been subjected to Sex-Based Misconduct are encouraged to report such incidents to the University and, where applicable, to local law enforcement. **Confidential** resources include the **University Counseling Centers**, **Offices of Sexual and Interpersonal Wellness** and **University Healthcare**. Contact information for those offices may be found in the self-care section below.

***Self-Care:***

Your academic success in this course and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and well-being. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. The Pace Community strongly encourages you to take care of yourself throughout the term, before the demands of midterms and finals reach their peak. Please feel free to talk with me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance in this course as soon as it occurs and before it becomes unmanageable. Please know there are a number of other support services on campus that stand ready to assist you. I strongly encourage you to contact them when needed.

***Just In Case App:***

The Counseling Center's *Just In Case* App supplies potentially life-saving mental health information to Pace University students, staff, and faculty. This smart phone App puts vital information and support options at your fingertips. Scan and open the App today, just in case you or a friend needs help. Download the Counseling Center [Just In Case App](#) or go to "Counseling Center: Just In Case" on the MyPace Mobile App.



<b>Department</b>	<b>Pleasantville</b>	<b>New York City</b>
Counseling Center	914-773-3710	212-346-1526
Dean for Students Office	914-773-3351	212-346-1306
Health Care Unit	914-773-3760	212-346-1600
Residential Life	914-923-2791	212-346-1295
Student Development and Campus Activities	914-773-3861	212-346-1590
Office of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity Programs	914-773-3775	212-346-1563
Sexual Assault Prevention & Education	914-597-8783	212-346-1931
<b>Academic Advisement</b>		
Advising Center for Exploring Majors	914-773-3847	212-346-1798
College of Health Professions	914-773-3961	914-773-3552
Dyson College	914-773-3781	212-346-1518
International Student / Scholars	914-773-3425	212-346-1368
Lubin School of Business	914-773-3531	212-618-6550
Pforzheimer Honors College	914-773-3941	212-346-1697
Seidenberg School	914-773-3254	212-346-1864
Study Abroad	914-773-3447	212-346-1368