Course Description and Overview
THTR 593b is a required course that prepares you for your thesis submission. *It does not exist as a course in the sense of you attending a class in a room, but as independent units designated for the autonomous development of your thesis project. It is a continuation of 593a.

Learning Objectives
This is a period of time in which you are to utilize the dramaturgy that you have gained over the course of your master’s curriculum to bring your work to the appropriate level of quality – work that shows true professional promise. This undertaking should be achieved primarily on your own initiative and of your own accord. *Ideally, this course marks time that you should be setting aside solely for the development, nurturing, and maintenance of your thesis; including research, refinement, and progress towards completion of your finest creative work. Part of what you are incorporating in your process is the dramaturgical experience that you had in 593a in fall 2014. The entire process will culminate in your thesis play, due on the USC deadline (April 1, 2015, 12 noon PST [in HARD COPY and via email in ONE PDF to the Director of Dramatic Writing]), and secondarily the presentation of your play in New Works Festival III, a production of the USC School of Dramatic Arts at The Carrie Hamilton Theatre at The Pasadena Playhouse. You are meant to develop your play independently using what you have learned, but also utilizing the dramaturgy that occurs in THTR 576. The deadline noted above is a USC deadline and is not related to any course obligations that you have for THTR 576. Please note that while New Works Festival III is an extracurricular event of the Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing, it occurs after graduation.

It is a time to focus on the refinement of your primary work, rather than developing new works. As needed, you are encouraged to schedule meetings with your instructor to support your process of development. Your instructor will assess the status of your play as they exist at the outset of the term via the table readings taking place in THTR 576 in January 2015.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
Humanity is your lab and theatre is your discipline. Live a useful life, and please read and attend as many plays as possible.

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments
Academic integrity is important to the University. The student is urged to remember that professors do not “give” grades; students earn grades. Thus, a final grade is entirely up to the student with regards to the effort he or she chooses to expend to meet course requirements.

For 593b, your goal is to complete refinement of your thesis on or before the USC deadline, submit a draft for that deadline, submit a revised draft at the end of the course on the final day of classes by 12 noon.

Grading Breakdown
At the conclusion of 593b, it is critical to your successful matriculation that the script in your portfolio reflects mastery of art and craft with regards to dramatic writing and professional preparedness. This means not only that the quality of the work must have attained master’s level; but also that the work includes correct grammar, punctuation, diction, and spelling. Some students have elected to have their plays reviewed by a professional copy editor before submitting it. This may be a route you wish to take if you persistently have received comments regarding errors in grammar, punctuation, diction, and/or
spelling. The dramatic writing director and faculty will assess your thesis on the basis of: quality of character development and execution, quality of story development and execution, quality of dialogue crafting, and overall quality of script and professional promise. In consultation with them, your faculty sponsor will issue you the grade that you have earned for the portfolio: CR, NC, or INC.

If a grade of INC is issued and you wish to complete your degree, you must meet with the Director of Dramatic Writing, create a completion plan, and refine the thesis until it has reached master’s quality; at that time, a grade change will be implemented if so earned. If a grade of NC is earned, you will have to re-enroll in 593b and continue to refine the portfolio until it has reached master’s quality. (Re-enrollment is not supported by tuition remission or any other kind of financial support from the School of Dramatic Arts.)

The grading breakdown is as follows:

33 1/3% - Pre-production Draft. Assessment of pre-production draft of scripts via staged readings in January 2015.

33 1/3% - Graduate School Submission Draft on USC deadline.


**Assignment Submission Policy**
See above category.

**Course Schedule**
1/28. Pre-production Draft completed.
4/1. USC deadline draft due.
4/30. Final draft of play REVISED FROM 4/30 VERSION.

**Final Examination Date:**
This course does not have a traditional final examination. Rather, the successful submission of your thesis play and your transition plan is tantamount to a final examination expectation.

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academic support/center programs/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or http://scampus.usc.edu) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

**Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**
In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards [https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/]. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/].

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity [http://equity.usc.edu/] or to the Department of Public Safety [http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us]. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/] describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute [http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali], which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html] provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information [http://emergency.usc.edu/] will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.