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Spring 2019

THTR 365-002: Principles of Playwriting

Michele Rittenhouse

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THTR 365 PRINCIPLES OF PLAYWRITING -- Spring 2019

<u>Instructor: Michele Rittenhouse</u>	Email: (best way to contact) rittenhouse@njit.edu Phone: 973-596-3607
Office Hours	Walk in policy, but by appointment is best. Mostly available (Mon-Wed 1:00-2:30 or Thurs 10:30-11:30)
Office: NJIT Campus, 133 Kupfrian Hall	Directions from Bradley Hall, go out front door, take a LEFT and walk UP HILL on Warren Street to first street, where the traffic cop is, and take a RIGHT onto Summit Street, walk toward clock tower on NJIT campus. On LEFT is a loading dock 99 Summit Street, that's Kupfrian Hall. My office is located downstairs practically under the loading dock. Room 133.
Course Prerequisites:	HUM 101 and 102, HUM 2XX
Course Description:	Exploration of the writer's craft from the page into the physical life of the play. Covers the basic tools in crafting short plays by developing skills in play formatting, character work, story structure, and rewriting techniques. Short play competition submissions are required at the end of the process.
Honor Code:	You must comply with the Rutgers-Newark and NJIT honor codes at all times. If you are caught plagiarizing, then you will be reported to the Dean's office. If you have questions about how to use research materials, ask. RU-N Honor Code: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-instructors/NJIT_HONOR_CODE_INFORMATION : https://www.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf
Course Objectives:	Write 2-3 short plays and learn the rewriting, first reading, and staged reading process for play development. Student will submit to a playwriting competition at the end of the semester. There will be an attendance to four theatre productions and writing an analysis of the productions from a playwright's perspective.
Course Outcome:	Understands the language and crafting of a stage script. Works with story structure, writes and rewrites to develop a sellable play. Works in collaboration with actors, directors and designers.
What is expected of you:	Attendance is mandatory , you will be graded. Keep a personal journal. Papers: Two to three short plays, plus rewrites of those plays, papers on one NY new play reading (TBA), two NY Shows, two campus productions. NOTE: <u>ALL RUTGERS STUDENTS need to get an NJIT UCID and PASSWORD to access MOODLE.</u> https://newaccount.njit.edu/~accts/cgi-bin/new
Making up work:	If a student has a note from the Dean of Students stating there was a valid reason for missing class and/or assignments, then a appropriate schedule to make up work will be scheduled.
	Textbook: More Ten Minute Plays from Actors Theatre of Louisville Mass Market Paperback – December 3, 2010. by Michael Bigelow Dixon (Editor), Jon Jory (Foreword) And NY Theatre Tickets (w/student discount) and tickets to on campus productions. (see below)

<p>On Campus shows and dates: Student tickets \$15 http://theatre.njit.edu NJIT HONORS COLLOQUIUM NIGHTS are always on Thursday Performances</p>	<p>Newark Playwrights Festival, Directed by Louis Wells and Lillian Reibero, Dramaturg, Michele Rittenhouse and Greg Paul</p>	<p>March 13, 2019 at 7 pm, Bradley Hall Theatre, Rutgers-Newark Campus, Free Admission</p>
	<p>The Toxic Avenger, musical by Lloyd Kaufman and Joe Ritter. Directed by Michael Kerley</p>	<p><i>Jim Wise Theatre, Kupfrian Hall, NJIT Campus March 6-9 @ 7 pm, March 10 @ 2:30 pm</i></p>
	<p>Heartland, by Michele Raper Rittenhouse, new play. Directed by Louis Wells</p>	<p><i>Bradley Hall Theatre, Third Floor, Rutgers Newark Camps. April 24-27 @ 7 pm, April 28 @ 2:30 pm</i></p>
<p>TWO professional shows Go to website and apply for FREE STUDENT membership with student ID. Then you can book your shows online for \$15.</p>	<p>If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka Written by Toni Sampson February 15 - <u>March 26th is cut off Date to see and write paper.</u></p> <p>The Pain of My Belligerence Written by Halley Feiffer March 29 – <u>April 18 cut off Date to see and write paper.</u></p>	<p>Playwrights Horizon 416 W 42nd St, New York, NY 10036 http://www.playwrightshorizons.org/tickets-packages/students/</p>

Percentage Breakdown	
5	Book Plays Analysis (DUE each class)
5	Attendance
10	1st play, 1st draft read
10	2nd play, 1st draft read
5	NY Show 1 paper
5	NY Show 2 paper
5	1st Campus show paper
5	2nd Campus Show paper
5	Quiz One
5	Quiz Two
10	Quiz Three
30	Final Portfolio Includes: (include: 1st play reading draft and rewritten draft, 2nd play reading draft and rewritten draft, proof of competition submission and competition guidelines.
100	Final Grade

(Undergraduate Students have one professional submission, Honor and Graduate Students have two play submissions)

Week by Week Course Schedule. See note at end of calendar.	
Tues Jan 22	Syllabus, Assignments, Exercise - Reserve PHT tickets
Thurs Jan 24	Exercise
Tues Jan 29	Exercise
Thurs Jan 31	Exercise
Tues Feb 5	G 1 first play READING
Thurs Feb 7	G 1 first play READING
Tues Feb 12	G 2 first play READING
Thurs Feb 14	G 2 first play READING
Tues Feb 19	G 3 first play READING
Thurs Feb 21	G 3 first play READING
Tues Feb 26	G 4 first play READING
Thurs Feb 28	G 4 first play READING
Tues Mar 5	G 5 first play READING, see TOXIC AVENGER
Thurs Mar 7	G 5 first play READING
Tues Mar 12	Discuss TOXIC AVENGER - Prep Quiz I
Thurs Mar 14	Take Quiz I , Discuss NPF, Deadline TOXIC AVENGER - electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Tues Mar 19	SPRING BREAK work 1st play from reading notes for final Portfolio.
Thurs Mar 21	SPRING BREAK Prepare 2nd play for Reading as scheduled.
Tues Mar 26	G1 readings 2nd play - Discuss PHT play/paper - electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Thurs Mar 28	G1 readings 2nd play
Tues Apr 2	G2 readings 2nd play, Prep Quiz II

Thurs Apl 4	G2 readings 2nd play, Take Quiz II
Tues Apl 9	G3 readings 2nd play
Thurs Apl 11	G3 readings 2nd play
Tues Apl 16	G4 readings 2nd play
Thurs Apl 18	G4 readings 2nd play - Discuss PHT Play/Paper - electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Tues Apl 23	G5 readings 2nd play (Shakespeare's Birthday and Death Day)
Thurs Apl 25	G5 readings 2nd play, Prep Quiz III
Tues Apl 30	Discuss Heartland/Paper - electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.-Take QUIZ III - Reading Catchup
Thurs May 2	LAST CLASS - Exercise - Review QUIZ III - Final Portfolio Prep - due 5/7/19 (include: 1st play reading draft and rewritten draft, 2nd play reading draft and rewritten draft, proof of competition submission and competition guidelines.
Tues May 7	Friday Schedule.NO CLASS - Portfolio Due in Office

It is essential that you **WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN** that applies to crafting your plays. All your QUIZ material comes from class talks. All your crafting skills come from class talks and exercises. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** If you miss a deadline to present, then there will be no time to make it up later short of a letter from the Dean of Students.