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ENG 4764-001: Advanced Dramatic Writing

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ENGLISH 4764: ADVANCED DRAMATIC WRITING

1:00 pm - 1:50 pm MW Coleman Hall 3130/3120

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Professor: Dr. Quesada, rmquesada@eiu.edu

Office: Coleman 3562

Skype: skype.quesada

Hours for consultation: M – 2:00 – 3:00 // T – 2:00 – 4:00 (via Skype) // W – 2:00 – 4:00

Course Question:

What's the best genre or form of dramatic writing for you to express yourself?

Course Description:

Advanced practice and instruction in dramatic writing. Students will participate in workshops of their creative work, read writing in forms of dramatic writing.

Course Attendance:

Attendance and participation are necessary. You are permitted **two** unexcused absences. An absence after two will lower your final grade by one letter grade. Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation in advance or immediately after. ***Additional attendance of events on-campus will be required.***

Course Texts:

Jensen, Julie. *Playwriting, Brief and Brilliant.*

Ramirez, Elizabeth, C., ed. *La Voz: Contemporary Plays and Performance Pieces by Latinas.*

Riley, Christopher. *The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style.*

Course Technology:

1. Using the learning management system (d2l/Pi)
2. Using email (EIU) and Internet
3. Submit files in commonly used word processing programs formats
4. Copying and pasting
5. Downloading and installing software
6. Using Cloud or digital space

Course Evaluation:

- A. SCRIPT REQUIREMENTS: 70%
- B. DRAMATIC SUMMARY: 3%
- C. ATTENDANCE: 14%
- D. LIVE PERFORMANCES: 7%
- E. CONFERENCES: 6%

Writing Requirements:

- I. Television Pilot 25%
 - A. Draft 7%
 - B. Final 18% (12/11)
- II. Short Film 20%

- A. Draft 5%
- B. Final 15% (12/11)
- III. Stage Play 25%
 - A. Draft 5%
 - B. Final 20% (12/11)

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Additional Assistance:

Information for students with disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS) 217-581-6583 as soon as possible.

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to Ninth Street Hall, Room 1302.

Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted. Work not submitted on time will receive zero credit.

Writing Conduct:

Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Student Learning Objectives (a – e) & goals (#s):

- a. Develop skills in craft analysis by discussing, reading & writing across genres (20%).
 - 1. Produce original poetry, prose, dramatic writing, and video.
 - 2. Read *Contents* of textbook and supplementary material.
 - 3. Learn how to write and produce an analysis for the work you produced.
- b. Produce & revise original creative work across genres (60%).
- c. Read, discuss, & identify their creative work in the context of a genre (5%).

Prepare by answering the following about what you write:

 - 1. Who is the audience for this?
 - 2. What is innovative or original?
 - 2. What is not innovative or original?
 - 3. Why should I write this?
 - 4. Is this the best genre for my story or message?

d. Practice the ability to critique creative work in a creative writing workshop (10%).

Prepare by answering the following about what you read:

1. Who is the audience for this?
2. What is innovative or original?
2. What is not innovative or original?
3. Why should I read this?
4. Is this the best genre for my story or message?

e. Participate in a reading of their creative work produced for this course (5%).

Prepare by:

1. Practice reading what you wrote.

SCHEDULE by project (subject to change/selected readings will be announced on d2l/Pi):

SCRIPT DETAILS:

I. Television Pilot (teaser + four acts)

- A. Teaser: Pages 1 – 5 (1%) 9/4
- B. Act I & II: Pages 6 – 36 (3%) 9/11
- C. Act III & IV: Pages 37 – 60 (3%) 9/25
- D. Final: 60 extensively revised pages of television pilot (18%)

II. Short Film (beat sheet + four acts)

- A. Beat Sheet: Pages 1 – 2 (1%) 10/5
- B. Act I & II: Pages 1 – 24 (2%) 10/12
- C. Act III & IV: Pages 25 – 48 (2%) 10/26
- D. Final: 48 extensively revised pages of a short film (15%)

III. Stage Play (two acts)

- A. Act I Part one: Pages 1 – 18 (1%) 11/6
- B. Act I Part two: Pages 19 – 36 (1%) 11/13
- C. Act II Part one: Pages 37 – 54 (1%) 11/20
- D. Act II Part two: Pages 55 – 72 (2%) 11/30
- E. Final: 72 extensively revised pages of a stage play (20%)

B. DRAMATIC SUMMARY (3 – 4 sentences)

- I. Television Pilot (**Aug. 31**) 1%
- II. Short Film (**Oct. 2**) 1%
- III. Stage Play (**Nov. 2**) 1%

C. ATTENDANCE (MW/F LAB)

- I. No class absences (14%)
- II. Every class absence will be deducted at – 2%

D. LIVE PERFORMANCES (attend a total of 7 *approved* EIU Theater or live performances: 3 before 10/14; 3 before 11/20; 1 before 12/7)

- I. Every EIU theater performance will be counted at 1%

*List of performance dates: TBA

E. CONFERENCES (By appt. only)

I. Preliminary Conference (8/31 – 9/9) at 3%

II. Midterm Conference (9/28 – 10/9) at 3%

Midterm: 10/14

Final portfolio: Revision of ONE full script: 12/11/2015 via email.