

Fall 2019

THTR 365-001: Principles of Playwriting

Michele Rittenhouse

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THTR 365 PRINCIPLES OF PLAYWRITING -- Fall 2019

Instructor: Michele Rittenhouse

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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: ALL RUTGERS STUDENTS need to get an NJIT UCID and PASSWORD to access MOODLE. <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 <u>Thursday Performances</u></p>		
	<p>Macbeth by William Shakespeare, directed by Louis Wells.</p>	<p><i>Jim Wise Theatre, Kupfrian Hall, NJIT Campus November 13-16 @ 7 pm, November 17 @ 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>Applied Improvisation Workshop at NJIT. Using as example to write dialogue.</p>	<p><i>Location CKB 116, Nov. 6th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm</i></p>
	<p>Wives August 23, 2019 – October 06, 2019 Peter Jay Sharp Theater Written by Jaclyn Backhaus Directed by Margot Bordelon October 2nd <u>is cut off Date to see show.</u></p> <p>Heroes of the Fourth Turning September 13, 2019 – October 27, 2019 Mainstage Theater Written by Will Arbery Directed by Danya Taymor October 26th <u>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 (one absence allowed, but not when you are up for a reading or graded exercise assignment)
5	1st play, 1st draft read
5	1st play, 2nd draft DOCX electronic after reading
10	2nd play, 1st draft read
5	NY Show 1 paper
5	NY Show 2 paper
5	STEM+ exercise graded
5	Campus Show paper
5	Quiz One
5	Quiz Two
10	Quiz Three
5	3-minute play exercise, graded.
25	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)

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.

Week by Week Course Schedule. See note at end of calendar.	
Wed Sept 4	Syllabus, Assignments, Exercise - Reserve PHT tickets
Mon Sept 9	Exercise
Wed Sept 11	Exercise
Mon Sept 16	Exercise
Wed Sept 18	Exercise, Mac Auditions (attend rehearsals)
Mon Sept 23	G 1 first play READING (DOCX file - 2nd draft due Saturday 10 am)
Wed Sept 25	G 1 first play READING
Mon Sept 30	G 2 first play READING (DOCX file - 2nd draft due Saturday 10 am)
Wed Oct 2	G 2 first play READING, Reminder Wives deadline.
Mon Oct 7	DISCUSS WIVES. Reminder STEM+ ATTENDANCE. WIVES paper due Friday. Electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Wed Oct 9	G 3 first play READING (DOCX file - 2nd draft due Saturday 10 am), Exercise due MONDAY for STEM+, Read in class.
Mon Oct 14	Read and work STEM+ exercise in class
Wed Oct 16	G 3 first play READING - Prep Quiz I
Mon Oct 21	G 4 first play READING (DOCX file - 2nd draft due Saturday 10 am), Take Quiz I.
Wed Oct 23	G 4 first play READING
Mon Oct 28	Discuss Heroes. Reminder Heroes paper due Friday. Electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Wed Oct 30	Catchup READINGS, Exercise.
Mon Nov 4	G1 readings 2nd play
Wed Nov 6	G1 readings 2nd play
Mon Nov 11	G2 readings 2nd play
Wed Nov 13	G2 readings 2nd play

Mon Nov 18	Prep Quiz II, Discuss Mackers play/paper - electronic docx paper 8AM FRIDAY.
Wed Nov 20	G3 readings 2nd play, Take Quiz II
Mon Nov 25	G3 readings 2nd play
Wed Nov 27	Friday Schedule.NO CLASS
Mon Dec 2	G4 readings 2nd play REVIEW QUIZ III
Wed Dec 4	G4 readings 2nd play TAKE QUIZ III
Mon Dec 9	Catchup READINGS - Review QUIZ III - write 3-minute play exercise for presentation on Wednesday for grade.
Wed Dec 11	Final Play Reading with grade (3 minute play): Turn in Portfolio Due. (include: 1st play reading draft and rewritten draft, 2nd play reading draft and rewritten draft, proof of competition submission and competition guidelines.) LAST DAY OF CLASS

DEADLINE DAYS

Group	1st playreading	2nd playreading
G1	Sept 23, Sept 25	
G2	Sept 30, Oct 2	
G3	Oct 9, Oct 16	
G4	Oct 21, Oct 23	
	DOCX 2nd draft of 1st play, Saturday 10 am after reading.	
G1		Nov 4, Nov 6
G2		Nov 11, Nov 13
G3		Nov 20, Nov 25
G4		Dec 2, Dec 4
	Prepare additional drafts on your own of 2nd play for final portfolio and possible competition submission.	

Electronic DOCX papers on plays seen Due.

Waves	Friday, Oct 11 8am
Heroes	Friday, Nov 1 8am
Macbeth	Friday, Nov 22 8am
FINAL PORTFOLIO	Wed Dec 11 due

Prepared Exercises for class

STEM+	Mon Oct 14 in class
3-Minute play	Wed Dec 11 in class

Note: Every class a short play analysis is Due