

Spring 2021

THTR 365-002: Principles of Playwriting

Michele Rittenhouse

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R 365 PRINCIPLES OF PLAYWRITING -- SPRING 2021

This course meets the Writing Intensive Requirement at Rutgers University - Newark

Office Hours	Email: (best way to contact) rittenhouse@njit.edu (phone: 973-596-3607)
Office: NJIT Campus, 133	By Remote appointment.
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 Show online, two campus productions online. NOTE: ALL RUTGERS STUDENTS need to get an NJIT UCID and PASSWORD to access NJIT CANVAS. https://ist.njit.edu/password-resets

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 an appropriate schedule to make up work will be scheduled.

Textbook

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)

This covers students that are taking this course the first time.	
Percentage Breakdown	
10	Book Plays Analysis (DUE each class)
5	Attendance
5	3 minute play exercise/reading 2nd draft graded
7	First Play Reading, 1st draft
8	Second Play Reading
7	ONLINE Show 1st paper
7	1st campus show paper
7	2nd Campus show paper
10	Quiz One
7	Quiz Two
7	Quiz Three
20	Final Portfolio Includes: (include: FINAL DRAFT after readings, 3-minute play exercise, 1st play final draft and reading draft, 2nd play final draft and reading draft. Submitted play title, proof of competition submission and competition guidelines.
100	Final Grade

Week by Week Course Schedule. Meeting twice per week. Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:20

Week one - Jan. 19/21	Syllabus, Assignments, Exercises
Week Two -- Jan 26/28	Exercise
	Exercise - 3 MINTUE PLAY exercise
Week Three -- Feb 2/4	Exercise - read 3-minute plays, assign reading groups.
	Exercise, read 3-minute plays - assign online play to discuss next week
Week Four -- Feb 9/11	Discus Play One online Paper due Sat 8:00 am , , Exercise
	1st PowerPoint play exercise
Week Five -- Feb 16/18	1st draft reading of first play
	1st draft reading of first play continued
Week Six -- Feb. 23/25	1st draft reading of first play continued, exercise
	1st draft reading of first play continued, exercise, Prep for Quiz I
Week Seven -- Mar 2/4	1st draft reading of first play continued, See EVERY-01, Take QUIZ I
	1st draft reading of first play continued.
Week 8 --Mar 9/11	Exercise/read. Discuss EVERY-01 paper due Sat. 8 am.
	2nd PowerPoint play exercise. Spring Break prepare Final Draft of Plays 1, Reading draft of 2nd play due March 23rd.
Week 9 -- Mar 23/25	2nd PP play reading, first draft.
	2nd PP play reading, first draft. See or plan to attend Newark Playwright Festival, March 26 1-5.
Week 10 -- Mar 30/ Apl 1	2nd PP play reading, first draft.
	2nd PP play reading, first draft. Quiz II take home.
Week 11 --Apl 6/8	2nd PP play reading, first draft. Discuss QUIZ II, due prior to this class.
	2nd PP play reading, first draft. Take QUIZ III, rewrite and format reading draft for class/actors.

Week 12 --Apr 13/15	Read revised and formatted QUIZ III.
	Read revised and formatted QUIZ III.
Week 13 -- Apl 20/22	Read revised and formatted QUIZ III.
	Read revised and formatted QUIZ III. See Musical online.
Week 14 -- Apl 27/29	Catchup play readings. NEW EXERCISE, draft due next class to read. Discuss Musical. Paper due May 1st, 8 am.
	Reading of Exercise.
Week 15 -- May 4/6	Last Day of class. Continued reading of exercise.
	Portfolio due electronically, MAY 6TH 5:00 pm Final Deadline.
ay 6, 2021 8:00 A	PROTFOLIO DUE