



School of Media and Communication
Department of Media Production and Studies

December 9, 2016

Dr. Josh Atkinson, Graduate Coordinator
Dr. Rick Busselle, Chair
Dr. Laura Stafford, Director

Dear Drs. Atkinson, Busselle, and Stafford,

I am pleased to write this teaching evaluation for Jeanette Dillon who taught MDIA 3500 “Scriptwriting” this semester. This is a class that I know well as I have taught it numerous times over the years. Initially I was scheduled to be the instructor-of-record this semester, but my assignment changed and Ms. Dillon stepped in. From the beginning she contacted me about the class, and we worked closely to get her up to speed before the semester began. She has been diligent throughout the semester, asking me relevant questions and seeking advice. She has put an incredible amount of work and care into this class, and I am pleased to see how it evolved under her instruction throughout this semester.

One of the things we brainstormed together was the concept of Ms. Dillon adapting her professional broadcasting experience into relevant script writing assignments. As the semester comes to an end and I have the opportunity to review how she made this a reality, I can attest to her successful execution of this idea. One of the things she did was to bring a professional contact into the class to act as a “client” for the students. She created a script writing assignment to meet the needs of the client, and he collaborated with the students throughout the semester. Six individual scripts were submitted to him, and one was selected for actual professional use (it will be produced). It is possible that the student writer of the accepted script will continue to do professional work for the client beyond this semester.

In another assignment, Ms. Dillon taught the students how to adapt a short story (literature) into a broadcast script. Once completed by the MDIA 3500 students, the scripts will be used in a future video production class of Mr. Jose Cardenas and then will be aired by WBGU. This type of inter-instructional, cross-semester project is something the department has wanted to do for a very long time. I am impressed that Ms. Dillon has been able to create a viable framework for that to happen. Kudos, Jeanette!

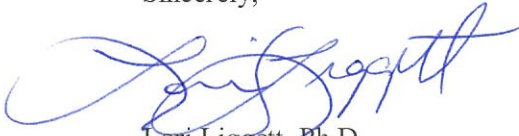
In the past I have observed Ms. Dillon’s teaching in another class in an earlier semester, and I find her to be a highly effective instructor who is accessible, energetic, and enthusiastic. She knows her stuff, and she translates that experience and knowledge into lectures, practices, and assignments that create a participatory learning environment for students. As for my actual in-class observation of MDIA 3500, I visited on Friday, December 9th when the students were working on their final script writing assignment. It was evident that the project requirements were clear to the students, and they were well into completion

of the assignment. Students interacted comfortably with Ms. Dillon, and she was hands on and available without being intrusive of their creative process. For those students who had specific questions and comments, she sat right beside them, read through their scripts and offered detailed comments about plot points, the logic of the narrative, and the use of various story devices, etc. Some of the students wanted comments on the storyline itself, while others had script formatting questions. Because I have taught this course numerous times, I know it is not an easy thing to switch between mentoring on creative concept and explaining script formatting within a moment's notice. Ms. Dillon did this seemingly effortlessly, and she adjusted her commentary to each student's particular needs. From what I could overhear, each of the students had developed their own script story, and the concepts seemed quite diverse. In general, the environment of the classroom was positive, creative, and industrious, and I commented that I had rarely seen students so engaged in the classroom on the very last day of the semester!

Towards the end of any semester one can always perceive the classroom culture that has evolved throughout the previous months, and Ms. Dillon has created an atmosphere of professional development opportunities, script writing skills, and team work among her students. I think this is going to be a memorable class for students, and whether they become professional script writers or not, this class has contributed to their understanding of the industry and how all creative content is initially constructed through the art of scripting.

As a colleague, I have greatly enjoyed collaborating and interacting with Ms. Dillon. High praise for her dedication to students and teaching – and her commitment to the School of Media and Communication.

Sincerely,



Lori Liggett, Ph.D.