Course Title: StoryCraft: Mining, Shaping and Presenting Stories with Impact
Course Code: COM 53
Instructor: Michelle Darby

Course Summary:

The class will focus on several areas of storytelling:

- Mining - how to find your stories and extract the richest elements;
- Crafting - how to structure the content and shape the language;
- Performing - how to share your stories with presence, authenticity and connection.

StoryCraft will directly address these learning objectives:

- To appreciate how experimentation, failure, and revision can play a valuable role in the creation of successful and innovative works.
- To explore your own potential to produce original creative projects.
- To take creative risks beyond your comfort zone.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Written work, as assigned by the instructor, will determine a student’s grade.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 - Intro - Content/State/Delivery
Assignment - Find 1 sample online story to share with class

Week 2 - Story Structure; Dramatic Technique
Assignment - Work on structure for a story from Week 1

Week 3 - Detail - Imagery and Memory
Assignment - Work on structure from story told in Week 2 incorporating imagery and memory, dramatic technique

Week 4 - Body/Voice
Perform story in group
Assignment - Prepare a new story incorporating structure, dramatic technique, imagery and memory, body and voice

Week 5 - Getting It Organized; Coaching stories (in pairs and triads)
Assignment - Choose one story and work on its outline for final performance

Week 6 - State - Vulnerability/Groundedness
Perform story in breakout groups
Assignment - video-tape your story and study video for habitual movements

Week 7 - Meaning/Rigour
Work in Pairs/Triads
Assignment - Work on final story exploring “why this story?” - Dig deeper!

Week 8 - Tying it all together - performance in small groups
Assignment - Office Hours/Work on final story

Week 9 - Dress Rehearsal in class
Office Hours/Work on final story

Week10 - Final class performances and debrief
(meet ½ hour early for warm-up)