

RTV 3101
(Fall 2018)
ADVANCED WRITING FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Instructor: Genevieve Curtis, M.A.
Office: Weimer Hall #3065
Office Phone: 347-712-0583
e-mail: jmurphy2@ufl.edu (I prefer you use Canvas for communication)
Lecture: Tuesday 5:10-6p. Thursday 4:05-6p.
Office Hours: Tuesday after class, Thursday after class; and by appointment

Description of Course

This course is designed to provide a thorough understanding and overview of the principles of scriptwriting, and to learn to apply these principles through practical exercises in various programs: commercials, sponsored and corporate videos, television and film documentaries, fictional works and adaptations. Another major objective is to help develop the students' critical faculties, enabling them to better examine and evaluate the scripts of others, as well as their own. Students should expect to have a completed short script by the end of semester. There will be a rubric for grading scripts.

The course will be comprised of lectures, exercises, screenings, workshops, analyses, and discussions.

Grading

Participation	5pt
Story 50 Words or Less	5pt
Commercial/PSA	5pt
Documentary pitch	5pt
Documentary critique	5pt
Stop Motion Animation	5pt
TV Pitch	5pt
TV critique I	5pt
TV critique II	5pt
Experimental pitch	5pt
Experimental critique	5pt
Adaptations critique	5pt
Script Mark-up	10pt
Quiz	10pt
Drama Script Analysis	10pt
Comedy Short Script	10pt
Horror Short Script	10pt
Drama Short Script	20pt
Exam	20pt

Punctuality is most important in this industry. Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade (i.e., 10%) per day. Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. Please refer to the official website at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> for an explanation of the letter grades. Prior to lectures containing films, students are required to watch one of the listed films in order to participate in discussion and they will be assigned in the class before the screening. The films are tentative and the instructor reserves the right to change the listed films according to the needs and progression of the class.

Class procedures

No computers or phone usage in class, except during Workshops. Be respectful of each other's opinions and work. We are going to kill a lot of trees so please be sure to recycle your papers, use recycled paper when you can, and print double sided. Group work and discussion is strongly encouraged. Since this is a business about who you know, it is very important to develop relationships of mutual respect and trust between classmates. It is your responsibility to resource access to assigned films legally, use the library.

Assignments: Students will be required to upload assignments by 5pm the day of its due date. You may pitch a movie/TV show you prefer to view for an assignment by asking the instructor for permission.

Recommended:

Campbell, Joseph.

The Hero with a Thousand Faces

Howard, David and Edward Mabley

The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer's Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay

Dancyger, Ken

Alternative Scriptwriting, 2nd ed.

McKee, Robert

Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting

Students With Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of students Office. The Dean of students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

On-Line Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

University Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’ The Honor Code

(<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

Academic Resources E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

<http://www.crc.ufl.edu>

Library Support,

<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Prerequisites

A grade of C or better in RTV 2100 and RTV 3007, as well as junior standing in Telecommunication.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 23rd

Lecture: Intro to Course
Formatting a script
Commercials/PSA

Suggested Screenwriting Programs: Final Draft, Movie Magic, Celtx (free), WriterDuet (free)

Assignment: Write a story in 50 words or less

Tuesday, August 28th

Lecture: Story in 50 Words or less, How to format a Script, Story Structure, The Hero's Journey, Character Chart, Script Analysis, Screenplay Rubric

Due: Story in 50 words or less

Assignment: Write a commercial, PSA, or Corporate video pitch

Thursday, August 30th

Lecture: Commercial pitches. Animation shorts

Due: Commercial, PSA, or Corporate Video

Assignment: Stop Animation Film

Event: *Daughters of the Dust* 7:30pm Hippodrome

Tuesday, September 4th

Lecture: Stop Animation films.

Due: Stop Animation Film

Thursday, September 6th

Lecture: Documentary Shorts

View one of: *Blackfish*, *13th*, *Making of a Murderer*, *Undefeated*, *Man on Wire*, *The Hunting*, *The Keepers*, *Fed Up*, *Hot Girls Wanted*, *Amanda Knox*, *Food, Inc.*, *Tricked*, *Cowspiracy*, *Baltimore Rising*, *Wishful Drinking*, *David Bowie*, *The Wolfpack*, *Fresh Dressed*, *Queen of Horses*, *South Pacific*, *Icarus*, *Last Men in Aleppo*, *Bueno Vista Social Club*, *Amy Robin Williams*

Assignment: Write a Documentary short pitch

Tuesday, September 11th

Lecture: Documentary short pitch presentations

Due: Documentary short pitch

Thursday, September 13th

Lecture: Sitcom & Episodic Television – *The Golden Girls* Breakdown Analysis

View one of: *Will & Grace*, *Spongebob Squarepants*, *Bob's Burgers*, *Buffy*, *That 70's Show*, *The Office*, *Friends*, *The Mindy Project*, *Community*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Modern Family*, *Seinfeld*, *Blackish*, *Atlanta*, *Peep Show*, *Rick and Morty*, *Insecure*, *High Maintenance*, *Animals*, *30 Rock*, *Parks & Recreation*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Charmed*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Roseanne*, *Girlfriends*, *Living Single*, *King of Queens*, *Cheers*, *X-Files*, *Longmire*, *Friends*

Assignment: Write a Sitcom or Episodic TV critique, Write a TV pitch

EVENT: Gainesville Latino Film Festival 13th-20th

Tuesday, September 18th

Lecture: Series & Analogue Television

View one of: *The Fall, The Crown, The Wire, Mad Men, House of Cards, The Handmaid's Tale, True Detective, Stranger Things, Big Little Lies, Game of Thrones, True Blood, Boardwalk Empire, Black Mirror, Sherlock, Happy Valley, American Horror Story, Godless, The Killing, Breaking Bad, Sons of Anarchy, Sharp Objects, Picnic at Hanging Rock, Top of the Lake, Better Call Saul, Sacred Games, Westworld, The Empress of China, Sword Art Online, Akira, Deathnote*

Assignment: Write a Series or Analogue TV critique Read first 10 pages of *Arrival* script, mark-up

Thursday, September 20th

Lecture: TV pitch presentations

Due: TV pitch, TV Critiques

Tuesday, September 25th

Lecture: Analyze The Feature

Due: Script Mark-up

Assignment: Analyze a feature length script - *The Shape of Water, Get Out, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, Call Me By Your Name, The Post, Lady Bird, Moonlight, Manchester by the Sea, The Big Short, Spotlight, The Imitation Game, Birdman, 12 years a Slave, Her, Argo, Django Unchained, The Descendents, Midnight in Paris, The Social Network, The King's Speech, Precious, The Hurt Locker, Slumdog Millionaire, Milk, No Country for Old Men, Juno*

Assignment: Pick your favorite and worst drama, write a pitch as to why.

Thursday, September 27th

Lecture: Favorite drama presentations. Drama – Character motivation, Know Your Ending – *Inglourious Basterds, Amelie, Dark Knight, Saturday Night Fever*

View one of: Adaptations – *Apocalypse Now, The Shining, Silence of the Lambs, Brokeback Mountain, Cold Mountain, Gone Girl, Poirot, Agatha Christie* Dramatizing History – *Amadeus, City of God, Schindler's List, Black Hawk Down, Braveheart, Hotel Rwanda, Glory, City of God, Persepolis, Platoon, Frida, Social Network, Hidden Figures*

Due: Favorite drama pitch presentation

Assignment: Adaptation or Dramatization critique

Tuesday, October 2nd

Lecture: The Powerhouse Screenwriters – The Coen Brothers, Oliver Stone, Aaron Sorkin, Francis Ford Coppola, Quentin Tarantino, Stanley Kubrick, Satyajit Ray, Charlie Kaufman, Jean-Luc Godard, Billy Wilder, Woody Allen, Ingmar Bergman, Orsen Welles, Diablo Cody, Sofia Coppola, Wes Anderson & Owen Wilson, Linda Wolverton, Ava DuVernay, Tarkovsky

View one of: Experimental - *8 ½, Donnie Darko, Memento, The Lobster, Mulholland Drive, La Jetee, Pi, Russian Ark, Elephant, Waking Life, La Grande Bellezza, The*

Fountain, The Tree of Life, Orlando, Clockwork Orange, Titus, Eyes Wide Shut, The Sacrifice

Assignment: Write an Experimental critique. Write an Experimental pitch.

Thursday, October 4th

Lecture: Random Acts of Flyness.

Due: Script analysis with Script

Tuesday, October 9th

Lecture: Experimental pitch presentations

Due: Experimental pitch and critique

Assignment: Quiz Review

Thursday, October 11th

Lecture: *ExMachina*

Assignment: View one of - *Mother of George, District 9, A Separation, Waltz With Bashir, Close-Up, The Square, Mustang, Turtles Can Fly, Persepolis, Winter Sleep, Once Upon A Time in Anatolia, Old Boy, Descendants of the Sun, Sand Storm, Goblin, The Legend of the Blue Sea, Spirited Away, Departures, Our Little Sister, Nobody Knows, "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman," Blue Gate Crossing, Internal Affairs, Blind Shaft, Summer Palace, The Grand Master, Hero, House of Flying Daggers, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Stray Dogs, Mother, The Class, The Prophet, Millenium Actress, Wagjda, Volver, Pan's Labyrinth, Y Tu Mama Tambien, Gomorrah, Life Is Beautiful*

Assignment: Foreign Film Critique

Tuesday, October 16th

Quiz

Thursday, October 18th

Lecture: *Who's Camus Anyways*

Due: Foreign film critique

Assignment: Watch *Deadpool*

Tuesday, October 23rd

Lecture: Comedy – Structure – Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Frank Oz, Harold Ramis, Judd Apatow, Terry Gilliam, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, John Hughes, Christopher Guest, F. Gary Gray, Keenen Ivory Waynes, Nick Park, Tyler Perry, Taika Waititi, Paul Feig, Sasha Baron Cohen, Christopher Guest, Trey Parker & Matt Stone, Tina Fey
Cinematic Devices – Edgar Wright, Jerry Lewis, Rowan Atkinson, Wes Anderson

Due: Foreign Film critique

Assignment: Write a 3-5 page Comedy script

Thursday, October 25th

Lecture: *Deadpool 2*

Tuesday, October 30th

Lecture: Comedy pitch presentations
Due: Comedy script

Thursday, November 1st

Lecture: *A Quiet Place*

Lecture: Horror/Suspense – Structure – Stephen King, Alfred Hitchcock, John Carpenter, Takashi Shimizu, James Wan, Eli Roth, David Cronenberg, Sam Raimi, George A. Romero, Dan O'Bannon, Jee-Woon Kim Cinematic Devices – Wes Craven, Alfred Hitchcock, Horror Shorts

Assignment: Write a 3-5 page Horror script

Tuesday, November 6th

Horror Shorts

Thursday, November 8th

Lecture: Horror pitch presentation

Due: Horror script

Assignment: Drama pitch

Tuesday, November 13th

Lecture: Drama pitch presentation

Due: Drama pitch

Assignment: Write a 10 page Drama

Thursday, November 15th

Lecture: Drama Shorts

Tuesday, November 20th

Lecture: Workshop

Thursday, November 22nd

Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 27th

Lecture: Contests/How to sell your script

Thursday, November 29th

Lecture: *Bowfinger*

Tuesday, December 5th

Lecture: Workshop

Thursday, December 8th

Final Exam

Due: Final Script