

RTV3320

EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor Iman Zawahry
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Office Hours: Monday 11:30pm-12:30p or by appointment.
TA: Genevieve Curtis | g@buckofffilms.com | 347-712-0583
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:50pm-1:40pm Office: 3065 Weimer Hall

CLASS MEETING

Class Tuesday Period 3 - 5 (9:35 PM - 12:35 PM) WEIM 1098

COURSE OBJECTIVE

RTV3516 EFP 2 - Screenwriting and Producing will teach students the fundamentals of screenwriting from formatting to story arcs while completing a short film screenplay by the end of the semester. Students will also learn the fundamentals of producing with their written scripts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:

- 1) Properly format their screenplay
- 2) Understand character and story arcs.
- 3) Write a complete short screenplay to be used in RTV4929c.
- 4) Understand how to properly budget and schedule through industry standard Movie Magic Software
- 5) Successfully pitch story and film to industry professionals

PREREQUISITES

Grade C or better RTV3320

TEXTBOOK

Required Textbooks:

"Save the Cat!" by Blake Snyder

"Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting" by Syd Field

Recommended:

"Crafting Short Screenplays that Connect" by Claudia Hunter Johnson

"Making a Good Script Great" by Linda Seger

"Story" by Robert McKee

COMPUTER & SOFTWARE

It is strongly suggested that students own Final Draft for proper screenwriting. However, students will have access to the Mac editing lab. It is recommended that students have a Thunderbolt/USB3.0 combo external drive for media storage.

ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

Students are allowed one class absence per semester. Each additional absence will result in a two-point deduction from a student's final grade for each occurrence. Students are allowed to be tardy once during the semester in each class. Each additional tardy will result in a one-point reduction from a student's final grade. Any unexcused late assignment will be lowered 20% of the total possible points. Any assignment turned in over a week late will be lowered 50% of the possible points.

UNIVERSITY
POLICIES

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.

STUDENT EVALUATION OF COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR

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.

UF HONOR CODE

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which 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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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.

HELP WITH COPING

The UF Counseling and Wellness Center is a terrific, free resource for any student who could use help managing stress or coping with life. The center, at 3190 Radio Road on campus, is open for appointments and emergency walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment or receive after-hours assistance, call 352-392-1575.

ASSIGNMENTS,
&
GRADING

CLASS

Attendance and punctuality	10 PTS
Inference	5PTS
Screenplay Pitch	10 PTS
Screenplay Critique	10 PTS
Schedule	10 PTS
Budget	10 PTS
Industry Pitch	20 PTS
First Draft	5 PTS
Final Screenplay	20 PTS

GRADING SCALE

94% or higher	= A
90%-93%	= A-
88%-89%	= B+
84%-87%	= B
80%-83%	= B-
78%-79%	= C+
74%-77%	= C
70%-73%	= C-
65%-69%	= D
64% or below	= E

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Week 1 - January 8th 2018

Introduction and Ice Breakers

Read "Zombieland" in class
Watch corresponding scenes
Screening Short Films

Assignment:

Read Snyder Chapter 1 "What is it?" and Chapter 4 "Let's Beat it Out"
Read Field Chapter 1 "What is Screenplay"

Writing Assignment: "Inference"

Write a one-page non-dialogue scene. Pick a dynamic location and write using only sights and sounds. Build the tension and write both a Comedy and a Horror scene. At the end of the scene the character should make his/her entrance. Write a strong logline for each scene.

Week 2 - January 15th 2018

Story Development, Structure and Format

Read and Discuss Inference scripts.
How to Format a Screenplay – Final Draft
What are the fundamentals to creating a dramatic story?
Snyder's Beat Sheet – "Let's Beat it Out"
Screening Short Film

Assignment:

Read Field Chapter 3-4 "Creating of Character" & "Building of Character"
Film Analysis - Choose from an Oscar winning screenplay in the past ten years. Break down the beats according to Snyder's Beat Sheet. Write out each beat and explain in paragraph format. Final should be around 2-3 pages.

Week 3 - January 22nd 2018

Character, Tone and Dialogue

Discuss beat break downs.
Read scripts with character driven stories.
Watch corresponding scenes.
In Class Writing - Dialogue
Discuss how to pitch a screenplay idea.

Assignment:

Read: Snyder Chapter 5 "Building the Perfect Beast"
Create bio's and backstory for your main character.
Work on your story pitch to pitch in class.

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Week 4 - January 29th 2018

Pitch Screenplay Ideas.

Assignment:

Read Chapter 5 Field's "Story and Character"

Write first draft. Group A due next week.

Week 5 - February 5th 2018

Group A writer's workshop

Assignment:

Group B first draft due next week

Week 6 - February 12th 2018

Group B writer's workshop

Assignment:

Choose a scene for actors to perform in class.

Week 7 - February 19th 2018

Group A - Actor's working with scripts.

Week 8 - February 26

Group B - Actor's working with scripts.

Assignment:

Work on Draft 2

Week 9 - March 5 – SPRING BREAK

Week 10 - March 12th 2018

Group A writer's workshop 2

Week 11 - March 19th 2018

Group B writer's workshop 2

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Week 12 - March 26th 2018

Producing: Bring the Story to Life

Development and Funding

How to Pitch

Pitching to executives.

Final project pitch with pitch deck and look book

Assignment:

Begin working on Tone Clip Images

Week 13- April 2nd 2018

Breaking down the script – Movie Magic EP Scheduling

Scheduling

Lining a script Breakdown pages

Cast and elements management

Cost and creative factors

Assignment:

Create schedule for your script – One Sheet

Week 14 - April 9th 2018

Budgeting a project - Movie Magic EP Budgeting

Elements of a budget Film financing

Assignment:

Finalize Budget for your script

Week 15 - April 16th

Skype Session with Producer in Industry

Week 16 - April 23rd

Industry style pitches.
