

RTV3516

# EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Summer 2019

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor Iman Zawahry  
Contact Info: iman@jou.ufl.edu | 352-392-0444 Office: 3048 Weimer Hall  
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 Periods 3 - 5 (9:35 AM - 12:35 PM) WEIM 1078

## 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

### Recomended:

"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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## Day 1

### Introduction and Ice Breakers

Read "Zombieland" in class

Watch corresponding scenes

In Class Writing - Scene after someone has robbed a bank

Screen Shorts

Pair Students for writing criticism

### 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.

## Day 2

### 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"

In Class Writing

### 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.

## Day 3

### Character and Dialogue

Discuss beat break downs.

Read scripts with character driven stories.

Watch corresponding scenes.

In Class Writing - Dialogue

### Assignment:

Read: Snyder Chapter 5 "Building the Perfect Beast"

Before and After - Writing Assignment

Create bio's and backstory for your main character.

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## Day 4

How to Tell a Story

Discuss how to pitch a screenplay idea.

Writing Assignment

### Assignment:

Read Chapter 5 Field's "Story and Character"

Write first draft. Group A due next week.

## Day 5

Pitch Screenplays

### Assignment:

work on assignment

## Day 6

Workshop

### Assignment:

Choose a scene for actors to perform in class.

## Day 7

Actor's working with scripts.

The "Rewrite"

Analyze script/breakdown

### Assignment:

Work on Draft 2

## Day 8

Writers Workshop Draft 2

Day 9

Loglines and Synopsis

Skype with Writer

Brainstorm second script with partner

Assignment - Begin Writing Second Script

Create 3 loglines for first script.

## Day 10

Workshop

## Day 11

Development and Funding

How to Pitch

Pitching to executives.

Final project pitch with pitch deck and look book

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## Day 12

### **Producing: Bring the Story to Life**

#### **Breaking down the script – Movie Magic EP Scheduling**

Scheduling

Lining a script Breakdown pages

Cast and elements management

Cost and creative factors

#### **Assignment:**

Teaser for film

## Day 13

### **Budgeting a project - Movie Magic EP Budgeting**

Elements of a budget Film financing

#### **Assignment:**

Create schedule for your script – One Sheet

## Day 14

#### **Assignment:**

Finalize Budget for your script

## Day 15

### **Skype Session with Producer in Industry**

## Day 16

Industry style pitches.