RTV3516 EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

### 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 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

**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.
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://scc.r.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.

CLASS
Attendance and punctuality ...................... 10 PTS
Inference .................................................. 5PTS
Screenplay Pitch ........................................ 10 PTS
Screenplay Critique ...................................... 10 PTS
Schedule ..................................................... 10 PTS
Budget ......................................................... 10 PTS
Industry Pitch ................................................ 10 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
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?
Synder’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: Synder Chapter 5 “Building the Perfect Beast”
Before and After - Writing Assignment
Create bio’s and backstory for your main character.
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”
Anaylize script/breakdown

Assignment:
Work on Draft 2

Day 8
Writers Workshop Draft 2

Day 9
Loglines and Synopsis
Skype with Writer
Brainstorm second scrpt 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
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.