

RTV3516

EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Fall 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 | jmurphy2@ufl.edu | 347-712-0583  
 Office Hours: By appointment | Office: 3065 Weimer Hall

**CLASS MEETING**

Class Tuesday Periods 6 - 8 (12:50 PM - 3:50 PM) WEIM 3215

**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

**Recomenned:**  
 "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 .....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 1- Story.....	5 PTS
Screenplay Critique .....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 2 - Beat .....	5 PTS
Character Assignment.....	5 PTS
Screenplay Idea .....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 3 Character.....	5 PTS
First Draft .....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 4 Story Breakdown.....	5 PTS
Final Screenplay .....	10 PTS
Tone Clip.....	5 PTS
Schedule .....	5 PTS
Budget .....	5 PTS
Industry Pitch .....	10 PTS
Partner Critiques .....	10 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 - August 20, 2019**

### **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"  
Read Short Screenplay 1 - Watch Corresponding Short Film. Write Paragraph Story Analysis.  
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 - August 27, 2019**

### **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.  
Read Short Screenplay 2 - Watch Film Short 2. What are the beats of a short film?

## **Week 3 - September 3, 2019**

### **Character and Tone**

Discuss beat break downs.  
Read scripts with character driven stories.  
Watch corresponding scenes.  
In Class Writing - Character  
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.  
Write a one-two page scene with your character that establishes three behaviors that reveals their "inner character"  
Begin brainstorming three ideas with partner for your final screenplay

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#### **Week 4 - September 10, 2019**

##### **Dialogue**

Discuss how to write effective dialogue (exposition, subtext, losing empty dialogue)

Watch films with effective dialogue

In Class Writing Assignment: Dialogue scene

##### **Assignment:**

Read Chapter 5 Field's "Story and Character"

Read Short Screenplay 3 - Watch Film 3. Write character analysis.

Send Class One Screenplay Idea to class by

Will ask main questions to understand if this concept had strong dramatic potential

(Talking points outlined on Canvas)

#### **Week 5 - September 17, 2019**

Discuss Screenplay Ideas.

##### **Assignment:**

First Draft Due Next Week

Read Short Screenplay 4 - Watch Screenplay 4. Story analysis and structure breakdown.

#### **Week 6 - September 24, 2019**

Writer's Workshop Draft 1

##### **Assignment:**

Choose a scene for actors to perform in class.

Work on Draft 2 to send to new partner

Partner to write notes for each other's draft

#### **Week 7 - October 1, 2019**

Actor's working with scripts.

Rising Action/Stakes in film.

Twists in Plots.

##### **Assignment:**

Work on Draft 3 to send to new partner

Partner to write notes for each other's draft

#### **Week 8 - October 8, 2019**

The Rewrite

How to create a strong beginning

How to create a strong ending.

##### **Assignment:**

Work on Final Draft For Class

#### **Week 9 - October 15, 2019**

Writer's Workshop Final Draft

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### **Week 10 - October 22, 2019**

#### **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 11 - October 29, 2019**

#### **What is the role of a Producer?**

Understanding the role of the Producer

Introduction to Movie Magic Scheduling/Budgeting

#### **Assignment:**

Breaking down script

### **Week 12 - November 5, 2019**

#### **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 Liner

### **Week 13- November 12, 2019**

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

Elements of a budget Film financing

#### **Assignment:**

Finalize Budget for your script

### **Week 14 - November 19, 2019**

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

#### **Assignment:**

Work on Industry Pitches

### **Week 15 - November 27, 2019**

**NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!**

### **Week 16 - December 3, 2019**

Industry style pitches.