

RTV3516 - 20133

EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR

Professors:

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Office: 3065 Weimer Hall

Office Hours: Monday 11:30pm-12:30p or by appointment.

CLASS MEETING

Tuesdays Period 8-10 (3 PM - 6 PM) WEIM 1092

COURSE

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

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

Grade C or better RTV3320

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

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

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 professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

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
Writing Assignment 2.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 2 - Beat	5 PTS
Character Assignment.....	5 PTS
Writing Assignment 3	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

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

Week 1 - January 7, 2020**Introduction and Ice Breakers****Talking About Story**

Overview of class: Writing, Selling, and Producing

Discuss elements of scene and story

View film clips "Men in Black" and "Bridesmaids"

Create and share 4-sentence stories in class.

Screen short films and analyze

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 - January 14, 2020**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?

Writing Assignment 2

Week 3 - January 21, 2020**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 back story for your main character.

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Week 4 - January 28, 2020

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.

Prepare Screenplay Pitch

Writing Assignment 3

Will ask main questions to understand if this concept had strong dramatic potential
(Talking points outlined on Canvas)

Week 5 - February 4, 2020

Discuss Screenplay Ideas.

Assignment:

First Draft Due Next Week

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

Week 6 - February 11, 2020

Writer's Workshop Draft 1

Assignment:

Choose a scene for actors to perform in class.

Work on Draft 2 (this needs to be something more detailed instead of work on Draft 2)

Week 7 - February 18, 2020

Actors working with scripts.

Rising Action/Stakes in film.

Twists in Plots.

Assignment:

Work on Draft 3 (this needs to be something more detailed then work on Draft 3)

Week 8 - February 25, 2020

The ReWrite

Skype Session with Hollywood Writer

Assignment:

Work on Final Draft For Class

Week 9 - March 3, 2020 -- HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!

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Week 10 - March 10, 2020

Writer's Workshop Final Draft

Week 11 - March 17, 2020

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:

Working on Tone Clip Images

Week 12 - March 24, 2020

What is the role of a Producer?

Understanding the role of the Producer

Introduction to Movie Magic Scheduling/Budgeting

Assignment:

Break down script

Week 13- March 31, 2020

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

Day Out of Days

Week 14 - April 7, 2020

Budgeting a project - Movie Magic EP Budgeting

Elements of a budget Film financing

Assignment:

Finalize Budget for your script

Week 15 - April 14, 2020

Skype Session with Producer in Industry

Assignment:

Work on Industry Pitches

Week 16 - April 21, 2020

Industry style pitches.