

RTV3516

EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brandon Shenk
Contact Info: bshenk@ufl.edu | 323.671.0038
Office Hours: Wednesday 11 50 - 12 50pm or by appt. | Office: 315 D Weimer

CLASS MEETING

Class Monday Periods 4 - 6 (10:40 PM - 1:40 PM) NRN 3035

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.

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://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-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. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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.

IN CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code

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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 gatorevals.ua.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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

ASSIGNMENTS,
&
GRADING

CLASS

Attendance and punctuality	10 PTS
Inference	4 PTS
Short Film Critique 1- Story.....	5 PTS
Seduction.....	4 PTS
Rewrite a scene.....	4 PTS
Short Film Critique 2 - Beat	5 PTS
Unexpected Visitor.....	4 PTS
Backstory and Values.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 3 Character.....	5 PTS
Inspirational Monologue.....	5 PTS
Pitch.....	5 PTS
Screenplay Beat Sheet/Summary.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 4 Story Breakdown.....	5 PTS
First Draft	5 PTS
Three Ways to Convey.....	4 PTS
Final Screenplay.....	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

RTV3516

EFP II

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Fall 2023

Week 1 - January 8, 2024

Introduction and Ice Breakers

Class Overview

What are the fundamentals to creating a dramatic story?

Read Screenplays/Watch Corresponding Scenes

Final Draft Formatting

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 - HOLIDAY

Week 3 - January 22, 2024

Story Development, Structure and Format

Read and Discuss Inference scripts.

Snyder’s Beat Sheet – “Let’s Beat it Out”

Elements Of a Script: Action / Description

In class assignment - Atmosphere

Assignment:

Read Field Chapter 3-4 “Creating of Character” & “Building of Character”

Write a 2-3 page scene: “Seduction”

Re-write a scene from a film with a different outcome

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

Week 3 - January 29, 2024

Character and Tone

Discuss beat break downs

Internal/External Character

Read scripts with character driven stories.

Watch corresponding scenes.

In Class Writing - Preparation for a Date

Assignment:

Read: Snyder Chapter 5 “Building the Perfect Beast”

Writing assignment: “Unexpected Visitor”

Write Backstory and Values

RTV3516

EFP II

Screenwriting and Producing

Fall 2023

Week 4 - February 5, 2024

Dialogue

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

Watch films with effective dialogue

In Class Writing Assignment: Dialogue scene

Discuss how to pitch a screenplay idea.

Assignment:

Read Chapter 5 Field's "Story and Character"

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

Inspirational Monologue

Prepare Screenplay Pitch

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

(Talking points outlined on Canvas)

Week 5 - February 12, 2024

Pitch Screenplay ideas

Assignment:

Write a 2 page summary on your script

Write out beat outline for your script

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

Week 6 - February 19, 2024

Rising Action/Stakes in film.

Twists in Plots.

Writing for Actors

Assignment:

Write first draft of script

Week 7 - February 26, 2024

Writer's workshop

Assignment

Three Ways to Convey

Week 8 - March 4, 2024

Writer's Workshop 2

Assignment

Prepare scenes for actors workshop

RTV3516

EFP II - Screenwriting and Producing

Fall 2023

Week 9 - **HOLIDAY**

Week 10 - **March 18, 2024**

Actor's working with scripts.

Assignment:

Work on Final Draft

Week 11 - **March 18, 2024**

The ReWrite

Feature Film Screenwriting

Zoom Session with Hollywood Writer

Assignment:

Work on Final Draft

Week 12 - **March 25, 2024**

What is the role of a Producer? Understanding

the role of the Producer Introduction to Movie

Magic Scheduling/Budgeting Development and

Funding

How to Pitch

Pitching to executives.

Final project pitch with pitch deck and look book

Assignment:

Breaking down script

Week 13 - **April 1, 2024**

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 8, 2024**

NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15 - **April 15, 2024**

Budgeting a project - Movie Magic EP

Budgeting Elements of a budget Film financing

Guest Speaker - Hollywood Producer

Assignment:

Finalize Budget for your script

Work on pitches

Week 15 - **April 22, 2023**

Industry style pitches.