

RTV3516

EFP II

Screenwriting and Producing

Fall 2025

**INSTRUCTOR
INFORMATION**

Instructor: Iman Zawahry

Contact Info: iman@jou.ufl.edu | 352-392-0444 | 352-281-6787

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:45am-12:35pm or By appt. | Office: 3048 Weimer Hall

Grading TA: Mithra Alavi I mithraalavi@gmail.com

CLASS MEETING

Class Tuesday Periods 6 - 8 (12:50 PM - 3:50 PM) WEIM 3020

**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

Recomennded:

"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 lecture and lab/workshop unexcused absence per semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a two-point deduction from a student's final grade for each occurrence. Students are allowed one unexcused tardy during the semester in each class. Each additional unexcused 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 unexcused late assignment turned in over a week late will be lowered 50% of the possible points. Excused absences, tardy and late assignments will not be penalized. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including a link to the University grades and grading policies.

- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

The University’s Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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 education 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 deliver by an 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 presentation 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 guest 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.

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
 - Academic Resources: 1317 Turlington Hall, Call 352-392-2010, or to make a private appointment: 352- 392-6420. Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
 - Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
 - Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
 - Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.
 - UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.
- Campus Health and Wellness Resources:
- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

You can check these above policies at:

ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING

CLASS

Attendance and punctuality	10 PTS
Inference	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 1- Story.....	5 PTS
Seduction.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 2 - Beat	5 PTS
Backstory and Values.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 3 Character.....	5 PTS
Pitch.....	10 PTS
Screenplay Beat Sheet/Summary.....	5 PTS
Short Film Critique 4 Story Breakdown.....	5 PTS
First Draft	5 PTS
Three Ways to Convey.....	5 PTS
Script Coverage	5 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

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Week 1 - August 26, 2025

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”

Week 2 - September 2, 2025

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”

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

Week 3 - September 9, 2025

Character, Tone and Dialogue

Discuss beat break downs

Internal/External Character

Read scripts with character driven stories.

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

In Class Writing Assignment: Dialogue scene

Discuss how to pitch a screenplay idea.

Assignment:

Write Backstory and Values

Read Chapter 5 Field’s “Story and Character”

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

Prepare Screenplay Pitch

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

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Week 4 - September 16, 2025

Pitch Ideas

Assignment:

Write a 2 page summary on your script

Write out beat outline for your script

Write first draft of screenplay

Week 5 - September 23, 2025

Writers Workshop 1

Assignment:

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

Week 6 - September 30, 2025

Writer's Workshop 2

Assignment:

Prepare scenes for actors workshop

Week 7 - October 7, 2025

Actor's working with scripts.

Script Coverage

Assignment

Three Ways to Convey

Script Coverage

Week 8 - October 14, 2025

No Class - Work in 4 person peer groups
on scripts

Week 9 - October 21, 2025

The ReWrite

Feature Film Screenwriting

Zoom Session with Hollywood Writer

Assignment

Work on Final Draft

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Week 10 - October 28, 2025

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 11 - November 4, 2025

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 12 - November 11, 2025

UF HOLIDAY

Week 13 - November 18, 2025

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 14 - November 25, 2025

NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15- December 2, 2025

Industry style pitches.