

RTV3108 Screenwriting

Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION	<p>Instructor: Iman Zawahry Contact Info: iman@jou.ufl.edu 352-392-0444 352-281-6787 Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:40am-11:30pm or By appt. Office: 3048 Weimer Hall Grading Instructor: Brandon Shenk bshenk@ufl.edu</p>
CLASS MEETING	Class Tuesday Periods 6 - (11:45 PM - 1:40 PM) WEIL 0279
COURSE OBJECTIVE	Screenwriting will teach students the fundamentals of screenwriting from formatting to story arcs while completing a short film screenplay by the end of the semester.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Properly format their screenplay 2) Understand character and story arcs. 3) Write a complete short screenplay to be used in RTV4929c.
PREREQUISITES	Grade C or better RTV3320
TEXTBOOK	<p>Required Textbooks: "Save the Cat!" by Blake Snyder "Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting" by Syd Field</p> <p>Recommended: "Crafting Short Screenplays that Connect" by Claudia Hunter Johnson "Making a Good Script Great" by Linda Seger "Story" by Robert McKee</p>
COMPUTER & SOFTWARE	Students will be provided with Final Draft on their computers and 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
UNIVERSITY POLICIES	University policies regarding attendance, grades, course evaluations, honor code violations, disability resources, health & wellness, crisis support, et al can be found at this link: https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

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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
Final Screenplay.....	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 - March 3, 2026

Introduction and Ice Breakers

Class Overview

What are the fundamentals to creating a dramatic story?

Read Screenplays/Watch Corresponding Scenes

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 - March 10, 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?

Discuss how to pitch a screenplay idea.

(Talking points outlined on Canvas)

Week 3 - March 17, 2025

Spring Break

Week 4 - March 24th, 2025

Pitch Ideas

Assignment:

Write a 2 page summary on your script

Write out beat outline for your script

Week 5 - March 31, 2026

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

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Assignment:

Write Backstory and Values

Read Chapter 5 Field's "Story and Character"

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

Write first draft of screenplay

Week 6 - April 7, 2026

Writers Workshop

Assignment:

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

Prepare scenes for actors workshop

Week 7 - April 14, 2026

Actor's working with scripts.

Understanding the role of the Producer

Development and Funding

How to Pitch

Pitching to executives.

Final project pitch with pitch deck and look book

Assignment:

Industry Pitch

Week 8 - April 21, 2026

Industry style pitches.

Assignment

Final Draft Due April 27th, 2026