ADVANCED WRITING FOR THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Instructor: James Babanikos, Ph.D.
Office: 3064 Weimer Hall
Office Phone: 392-6399
e-mail: jbabanikos@jou.ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

Description of Course

This course is designed to provide a thorough understanding and overview of the principles of scriptwriting, and to learn to apply these principles through practical exercises in various programs: commercials, sponsored and corporate videos, television and film documentaries, fictional works and adaptations. Another major objective is to help develop the students’ critical faculties, enabling them to better examine and evaluate the scripts of others, as well as their own.

The course will be comprised of lectures, exercises, screenings, workshops, analyses, and discussions.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate video/film script</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentary video/film proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Sketches / Dialogue Exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Punctuality is most important in this industry. Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade (i.e., 10%) per day.

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. A half point will be deducted from your attendance grade for each unexcused class absence. No incompletes will be given without a medical reason.

Texts

Required:  
RTV 3101 Course Packet, available at Book It!, on the corner of University Avenue and NW 13 St., on the ground floor of the Holiday Inn, facing NW 13 St.

Recommended: Armer, Alan. Writing the Screenplay: TV and Film
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.

On-Line Course Evaluations

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 to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

University Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that 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 (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-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.

Prerequisites

A grade of C or better in RTV 2100 and RTV 3000, as well as junior standing in Telecommunication.
**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12 May</td>
<td>Intro to course</td>
<td>Film/video/audio terminology.</td>
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Terms you should know (1 page).                                  |
Jefferson-Pilot Insurance TV commercial script (2 pages). |

**Week 2**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May</td>
<td>TV commercials -- class presentations</td>
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| Thursday, 21 May   | The sponsored/corporate film or video project: writing the script.                              | **Readings:** DiZazzo, Ray. (1992). "Structure and...
Writing the corporate video script.

**Week 3**

**Tuesday, 26 May**

What is documentary? A discussion of documentary history and different documentary approaches.


**Wednesday, 27 May**

The making of documentaries: pre-production.


**Thursday, 28 May**

The making of documentaries: production and post-production.


Documentaries: various approaches.

**Week 4**

**Tuesday, 2 June**

Fictional programs -- fundamentals of dramatic structure


Writing the treatment; fleshing out the story.


Lucey, Paul. (1996). "Writing the
Wednesday, 3 June

Characterization


Dialogue


Writing the screenplay


Thursday, 4 June

Effective beginnings

Developing tension and suspense.


**Week 5**

Tuesday, 9 June

Tips on writing short scripts.
Adaptations.

Wednesday, 10 June

Review

Thursday, 11 June

Test

**Week 6**

Tuesday, 16 May

Presentation and discussion of final projects

Wednesday 17 May and Thursday 18 May