

THFM-2611-001 (3 credit hours)

INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING

Winter 2018
Mondays 2:30 – 5:15 pm
Room: 3M50

INSTRUCTOR: John Kozak
Office: Room 3T11
Phone: 786-9951
email: j.kozak@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday 13:00 – 14:00
Thursday 13:00 – 14:00
(and by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the basics of screenwriting through the development of an original short film script. It will include a study of the language of film, narrative principles, the elements of character, script formatting and script analysis. Students are required to participate constructively in critiquing the work of classmates and to contribute to in-class discussions. Written assignments will be a mandatory part of this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Story by Robert McKee
The Hollywood Standard by Christopher Riley

MARK BREAKDOWN

Synopsis (Due January 22)..... 15%
Outline (Due February 26)..... 25%
1st Draft screenplay (Due March 19)..... 25%
2nd Draft screenplay (Due April 9)..... 15%
Constructive Participation in Critiquing.....20%

TOTAL 100%

GRADING SCALE

A+	90 - 100%	GPA 4.50	C+	65 - 69.9%	GPA 2.5
A	85 - 89.9%	GPA 4.25	C	60 - 64.9%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 - 84.9%	GPA 4.0	D	50 - 59.9%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 - 79.9%	GPA 3.5	F	Below 50%	GPA 0
B	70 - 74.9%	GPA 3.0			

Work not submitted will be graded as 0.

Late Assignments will not be accepted without a medical certificate.

There will be No Final Exam

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2018 and end in April 2018.

Note: For all written assignments, students must submit a hard copy AND email a PDF to the instructor ON the due date. All assignments will be posted on the course Nexus site where students can access them.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 8 – Elements of Story

January 15 – Procedure & Format – Log-line to Outline
- The Pitch
- Assignment 1 – Synopsis – Due January 22

January 22 – Scene & Sequence Building
- The Elements of character
- Hand in Synopsis

January 29 – Synopsis - Pitch and Class Critique

February 5 – Synopsis - Pitch and Class Critique

February 12 – The Outline
Assignment 2 – Outline – Due February 26

Feb. 18 – 24 – READING WEEK

February 26 – Dialogue and Screenplay Format
- Hand in Outline

March 5 – Class Critique of outlines

March 12 - Class Critique of outlines
Assignment 3 – 1st Draft screenplay – Due March 19

March 19– General notes – discussion and review
- Hand in 1st draft screenplay

March 26 - Class Critique of Screenplay

April 2 - Class Critique of Screenplay
Assignment 4 – Final Draft screenplay – Due April 9

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 17, Feb 28, Mar 14. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors is optional but highly recommended.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (ex. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.)

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams**, **Socials**, and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals, (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2018 and end in April 2018 (2018 Winter Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.