

THFM 2612-001 (3 credit hours)

SCRIPT AND THE SMALL SCREEN

Term: **Winter 2017**
Time: **T 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.**
Location: **Room 2M77**

Instructor: **Dr. Jonathan Ball**
Office: **2M69**
Phone: **204-786-9862**
E-Mail: **j.ball@uwinnipeg.ca**
Office Hours: **T 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., by appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate the narrative techniques employed by two core television genres, the comedy series and the drama serial, alongside a number of examples from other shows. Our investigation will focus on scene structure, episode structure, act breaks and seasonal arcs as well as the similarities and differences between the two formats. Students will learn to develop story concepts and write script sequences for a “spec” script, analyze existing shows, and work in groups to develop stories and mock proposals (aka, pitch bibles) for a television series. Students working groups will receive the same grade.

REQUIRED DVDS

True Detective, Season 1

Examples from this show, and other shows, will be shown in-class. However, students are responsible for viewing the entire first season of *True Detective* on their own time outside of class.

GRADING

Proposal assignments will be completed by groups. All members of the group will receive the same mark.

Scripted Sequence for a Spec Script (due Feb. 7)	30%
<i>True Detective</i> Scene Analysis assignment (due Mar. 14)	30%
Group Project: Mock proposal for TV series (due Apr. 7)	40%

TOTAL	100%

Late assignments will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0%.

Since the effectiveness of this class is dependent on full participation in class discussions and in group work, absences and late arrivals not due to documented medical reasons may lead to deductions in the final mark. Students who do not attend class on a regular basis will be burdens on their groups and so a premium is placed on attendance and punctuality. Additionally, in the arts industries, being late or missing meetings may very well sink your projects and cost you or your employers thousands of dollars.

Unexcused absences from lectures may be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lectures may be penalized at a rate of 0.5% per instance.

Excused absences or late arrivals require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. The instructor will use personal discretion to determine whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence. Students with chronic medical conditions that will require extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

In addition, all students must attend group meetings outside of class. Students who are reliably reported to have missed group meetings outside class may have (an additional) 2% deducted from their final mark per meeting missed.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	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%.

DEFINITIONS OF GRADING DESCRIPTIONS

A+ Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill AND great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Superior. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill OR great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A- Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Satisfactory. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Satisfactory. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

F Failing. Unsatisfactory knowledge of concepts and/or techniques, which does not satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course. Late or missed assignments will be given a failing grade.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Jan. 10 – Feb. 7:	Fundamentals of TV Writing, Examination of Various Shows
Feb. 14 – Mar. 7:	Focus on <i>True Detective</i>
Mar. 14 – Apr. 4:	TV Series Development

Important Dates:

Feb. 7:	Scripted Sequence Due
Feb. 20 – 24	Mid-Term Reading Week / No Classes
Mar. 1:	Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline
Mar. 14:	Scene Analysis Due
Apr. 7:	Final Group Project (Series Bible) is due

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays (except where noted) during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the Winter dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9. 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.

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 five plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! And this year, for the first-time, TAFSA is planning a **Play Festival** (Jan 11-14). Please join TAFSA to find out more; check with Patty for details about for the first meeting in January. This is a 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://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> 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 with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (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.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/new-faculty-handbook/appeals-and-academic-misconduct.html>) for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Student's Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensure students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at <http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy> or call 204-786-9780.

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even 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 1, 2017 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2017 and end in April 2017 of the 2017 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.