



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Continuing Studies
Center for Continuing and Professional Education

XWRI-035-01 Advanced Screenwriting: Narrative Workshop
Spring 2016

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DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Screenwriting: Narrative Workshop is an advanced level course building on introductory screenwriting skills and elements. During this six-week course students will develop original narrative screenplays for film, television and/or digital programming. Class sessions will be rigorous and challenging consisting primarily of group readings and open critiques. Students should arrive to the first class prepared to discuss the idea and status of the screenwriting project they plan to pursue. Writers of both intermediate and advanced levels are welcome. Successful completion of *Introduction to Screenwriting*, a similar course or permission of the instructor is required.

CONTENT:

With the exception of the first session, class time will consist almost entirely of student readings and open critiques.

Students are expected to bring 10 to 20 pages of new screenplay pages or other assigned materials such as proposals, outlines, scene and/or sequence cards to subsequent class meetings.

Due to time limitations everyone may not read each week. If one doesn't read, the instructor will review and comment on your weekly progress via email within the next 2 to 3 days.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Develop the idea and write thirty plus pages of an engaging narrative screenplay for film, television and/or digital programming

Rewrite an existing screenplay (if applicable)

Gain a greater critical and artistic sensibility as a writer

Understand the basics of the business of screenwriting

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are required to complete weekly writing assignments. Assignments are tailored to the specific needs of each student and are assigned via email or in class.

Reading assignments are optional but strongly encouraged. Reading assignments are listed on the class schedule and due before the appropriate class meeting.

If reading in class, please bring copies of your work for others to read.

If applicable, your work will also be posted on Blackboard.

Always keep a copy of your work for yourself.

GRADES:

The grading schema for non-credit classes follows below.

(SC) Successfully Completed

Successful completion requires completion of all course requirements and satisfactory attendance as defined by Georgetown University. Participants must meet three criteria to receive a grade of SC:

- **Attendance:** The participant must be in attendance for all contact hours of the course.
- **Course work:** The participant must complete all required course work assigned during the course.
- **Learning Objectives:** The participants must satisfactorily meet all learning objectives outlined in the course syllabus.

(AT) Attendance Verified

A grade of (AT) indicates that a student was in attendance for a majority of the course, but did not satisfactorily complete all course requirements or meet learning objectives.

(RE) Registered but Never Attended

A grade of (RE) indicates that a student was enrolled in a course, but failed to physically attend.

(W) Withdrawal

A grade of (W) indicates that a student formally withdrew from a course prior to the start of the course.

(I) Incomplete

A grade of (I) incomplete indicates that a student has made arrangements with the faculty member to complete the course work within six month after the last class. Once the course work has been completed, submitted and evaluated by the faculty member, the grade will be changed accordingly.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY:

In the event of the closure of the University every effort will be made to maintain instructional continuity by rescheduling the class session (TBA) or by Zoom. Should this occur students should refer to Blackboard for further information. The absence of any instruction indicates alternatives are not possible and make-up arrangements will be made. For the latest information regarding campus status please call the weather hotline at 202-687-7699 (SNOW).

POLICIES AND GENERAL REMARKS:

No guests, cell phones or taping of lectures.

Please arrive on time.

Various topics cited on this syllabus may be subject to change.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Keep your ideas simple.

Allot a specific period of time each week to write.

Keep writing no matter what!

TEXTS FOR THOSE WRITING FOR THEATRICAL FILM (OPTIONAL):

Gulino, Paul, *Screenwriting, the Sequence Approach*, 2014 reprint, Bloomsbury Academic

Seeger, Linda, *Making a Good Script Great*, 3rd Edition, Samuel French Trade

Trottier, David *The Screenwriter's Bible* Silman-James Press (6th edition)

TEXT FOR THOSE WRITING FOR TELEVISION (OPTIONAL):

Rabkin, William, *Writing the Pilot*, 2011, Moon & Sun & Whiskey Inc.

Trottier, David *The Screenwriter's Bible* Silman-James Press (6th edition)

Schedule

(4/2 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) INTRODUCTION: STATUS OF STUDENT WORK/
SCHEDULE READINGS.

LECTURE: 3-act structure, sequences, sequence cards, scene cards,
other theories, (if time allows) genre

WRITE: Tailored to the needs of each student

READ: MGSG Chapter 2
STSA Chapter 1
WTP pp. 1-18

Feature length screenplay (available on Blackboard) TBA.

(4/9 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) READINGS/CRITIQUES/SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

WRITE: Tailored to the needs of each student

READ: MGSG Chapter 3
STSA Chapter 2
WTP pp. 19-38

(4/16 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) READINGS/CRITIQUES/SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

WRITE: Tailored to the needs of each student

READ: MGSG Chapter 4
STSA Chapter 8
WTP pp. 39-58

(4/23 - NO CLASS!

(4/30 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) READINGS/CRITIQUES/SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

WRITE: Tailored to the needs of each student

READ: MGSG Chapter 11

STSA Chapter 9

WTP pp. 59-79

(5/7 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) READINGS/CRITIQUES/SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

WRITE: Tailored to the needs of each student

READ: MGSG Chapter 6

STSA Chapter 11

WTP pp. 80-89

(5/14 - 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) FINAL READINGS/CRITIQUES