

## **Description**

This course will train students to write a professional evaluation ('coverage') identifying the strengths and weaknesses of literary material submitted to producers of film and television. The students written analysis of scripts will become part of their professional portfolio.

## **CINEMA 112 - Script Analysis**

Section: #3596

Starting and End Time: 5:10 pm - 8:20 pm

Days: Mondays

Room: AT A205

Start Date: 2/9/2015 End Date: 6/7/2015

Weeks: 16

Units: 3

Instructor: Matt Harrison

Contact: [harrism@wlaac.edu](mailto:harrism@wlaac.edu)

## **Structure of Class**

Part 1: 70 min - Discussion & Lessons

10 min break

Part 2: 110 min. - Workshop

Workshop format: on arrival, each student enters name on white board "Reading Tonight" list. Class time is divided by number of students reading. (eg. 7 students equals 10 minutes each.) Each student reads assignment followed by discussion and notes. We may do some "in class" writing.

## **Attendance**

Perfect attendance is worth 10 points for 14 meetings. Two (2) attendance grade points are awarded per class if you arrive on time and complete the class (for a total of 28). Arrival will be considered "on-time" until 10 minutes after class time. One point will be deducted if you arrive late, leave early, or skip the middle of the class. Zero grading points will be awarded if you miss the class. One missed class is permitted.

## **Assignments**

Deliver your assignments on time. Two (2) grading points will be subtracted per class after the assignment is due. For example:

Assignment delivered on due date = full points.

Assignment delivered one class late = 2 points subtracted.

Assignment delivered two classes late = 4 points subtracted.

Assignment delivered three classes late = 6 points subtracted.

Assignments turned in after the last class will continue to lose two grading points per week of lateness.

### **Assignment 1**

Write coverage of the one-page (1) script provided. Coverage form will be handed out in class and is also available on line. May be handed in on paper or emailed to instructor. Assignment 1 is worth 20 points.

### **Assignment 2**

Write coverage of script supplied by student. Coverage may be handed in on paper or emailed to instructor. Assignment 2 is worth 20 points.

**Assignment 3**

- a) Deconstruct a script to evaluate and determine Studio production value.
- b) Produce a final marketing report of a film project.

Assignment 3 form will be handed out in class and is also available on line. May be handed in on paper or emailed to instructor. Assignment 3 is worth 20 points. Further statistics may be found at: <http://www.the-numbers.com/market/>

**Grading**

Out of 100 points:

A=90 – 100%    B=80 – 89%    C=70 – 79%    D=60 – 69%    F=59% or less

**Writing track**

Our concurrent writing track is designed to add a critical component to your ability to Analyze Scripts. The track is broken down into the following modules:

**Logline**

One sentence logline. A logline (or log line) is a brief summary of a television program, film, or motion picture often providing both a synopsis of the program's plot, and an emotional "hook" to stimulate interest.

**Synopsis**

1 page 3-paragraph synopsis of story. A synopsis is a brief summary of the major points of a story, written in prose. Synopsis read like a short story, but are told in the present tense and describe events as they happen.

In small groups, we'll begin sketching out our Short Synopsis. The short synopsis is a 300 words maximum 1 page 3 paragraph story synopsis. We'll begin by writing out the first few words of each act. Instructor will drop by to see how everyone is doing. Read your rewritten Short Synopsis aloud in class. Notes are given.

**Session**

Imagine your story has come to an end - credits roll - The End. The next morning your main character rushes over for a psychotherapy "session" with their shrink, lays down on the couch, feet up. Write a 1 page question and answer session, as you imagine it, between you main character and their psychotherapist. And remember, your main character doesn't want to waste time! - This shrink charges \$200 per hour. We'll read this "session" in class.

**Step Out**

One page outline ("step out"). A step outline (also called a beat sheet) is a detailed telling of a story with the intention of turning the story into a screenplay for a motion picture. The step outline briefly details every scene of the screenplay's story, and often has indications for dialog and character interactions. The scenes are often numbered for convenience.

**Mini Reviews**

We'll hold Mini Reviews of topics chosen by instructor. The class will break into groups of 4 to answer questions on covered topics. One student from group will write up group answers. We'll use about 20 minutes for this review. At end, each group reports answers.

**Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Deconstruct a script to evaluate and determine Studio production value.
2. Produce a final marketing report of a film project.

Attendance	10	Course Schedule
Assignment 1	20	Cinema 112
Assignment 2	20	Instructor Matt Harrison
Assignment 3	20	WLAC
Test 1	20	
Participation	10	
<b>Total points</b>	<b>100</b>	

Class	Date	Time	Topics & Lessons	Assignments	Writing track
1	2/9	5:10-8:20PM	Coverage - what is it? Overview. Read syllabus.	Assignment 1	Assign one sentence logline
2	2/16	off			
3	2/23	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 1.	Assignment 1 due	Read logline. Rewrite
4	3/2	5:10-8:20PM	<b>Mini Review</b>	Give Assignment 2	Read logline. Rewrite
5	3/9	5:10-8:20PM	Fill out coverage form together.		Read logline. Assign 1 page 3-paragraph synopsis of story.
6	3/16	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 1.		Read 1 page synopsis. Rewrite.
7	3/23	5:10-8:20PM	<b>Mini Review</b>		Read 1 page synopsis. Rewrite.
8	3/30	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 2.	Assignment 2 due	Read 1 page synopsis. Rewrite.
9	4/6	off			
10	4/13	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 2.	Give Assignment 3	Read 1 page synopsis. Assign "Session": 1 page meeting with shrink.
11	4/20	5:10-8:20PM			Read 1 page "session". Rewrite.
12	4/27	5:10-8:20PM	<b>Mini Review</b>		Read 1 page "session". Rewrite.
13	5/4	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 3.	Assignment 3 due	Read 1 page "session". Rewrite.
14	5/11	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 3.		Read 1 page "session". Assign 1 page "Step Out" (outline).
15	5/18	5:10-8:20PM	Read Assignment 3. Review for Test 1.		Read "Step Out". Rewrite.
16	5/25	off		Study for Test 1	
17	6/1	5:10-8:20PM	<b>Take Test 1</b>		Read "Step Out".