

FILM/TV 6A ONLINE: SCREENWRITING FUNDAMENTALS FOR FILM/VIDEO

Course: F/TV D006A61Z

CRN: 12924

Units:4

Instructor: Jennifer van Sijll

Dates: Online (6 weeks)

Start Date: June 29, 2020

Semester End Date: August 8, 2020

Final Exam: August 5, 2020

Online Hours: Zoom: Mondays 5 pm – 6 pm

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Enrollment Services Deadlines for Summer 2020

First day of the quarter	June 29
Last Day for Adds	July 02, 2020
Census Date	July 07, 2020
Last Day for Drops w/ Refund	July 01, 2020
Last Day for Drops w/o W	July 06, 2020
Last Day for Drops	July 29, 2020
Last day of Class	August 8, 2020

Required Textbooks

1. Vogler, Chris. *The Writer's Journey*. Los Angeles, Michael Wiese Productions, 2007
2. Snyder, Blake. *Save the Cat*, Michael Wiese 2005.
3. Van Sijll, Jennifer. *Cinematic Storytelling*. Michael Wiese 2005.

Optional

4. *The Screenwriter's Bible*, 7th Edition, A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script 7th Edition by [David Trottier](#) (Author)
5. McKee, Robert. *Story*

Description

Intro to scriptwriting for film and electronic media; the role of the script in media production; format and structure in the script; the basic skills of scriptwriting for fiction and nonfiction.

Student Learning Outcomes

Demonstrate a command of story structure, the creation and development of dynamic and original characters. Demonstrate a command for writing short and feature length scripts for fiction and non-fiction.

Methods

This is an 100% Online class which will use Canvas as the mode of delivery. Methods include assigned readings, student independent viewing of assigned films or other formats, Online discussion forums, student feedback, written work and exam. Office hours will be held on Zoom.

Grade Scale (Based on Total Points Earned)

100 - 97= A+, 96-93=A, 92-90=A-, 89-87=B+, 86-83=B, 82-80=B-,

79-77=C+, 76-70=C, 69-60=D, Less than 60 = F

General Assignments and Grade Points

Students can earn a possible 100 points for the required assignments below. These are translated into grades as seen above in the Grade Scale. For example, a student earning 88 points is given a B+. Students wanting to raise their grade or who have missed a submission deadline can also earn an additional 10 Bonus points by completing two Bonus assignments. See Assignments.

1. Original Logline	5 points
2. Premise / Theme	5 points
3. Character Profiles Structural Script Analysis	10 points
4. Structural Script Analysis	10 points
5. Detailed Outline - Beat Sheet	10 points
6. Short Mini-Documentary	5 points
7. Feedback and Discussion Forums	15 points
8. First 10 pages of a feature film or TV show	20 points
9. Visual Storytelling Scene Rewrite	10 points
10. Final Exam	10 points

Total Points of Required Assignments	100 Points
• Bonus Points Assignment #1 Visual	5 Points
• Bonus Points Assignment #2 Sound FX	5 Points
Total Possible Points	110 Points

Assignments

1. **Original Logline:** Create 3 original loglines for an original feature film. One of which is intended to be the basis of your feature film assignments that follow. You'll share your loglines with the instructor and fellow students.
Please note: Only submit loglines you feel comfortable sharing. You are not compelled to use one of these. You can change your story later as the class progresses. (5 points)
 - b) Choose one of your loglines from Assignment #1 and write an original Premise/Theme that you think is the core value your story explores/debates. (5 points)
2. **Character Profiles:** Create a character study for each of the 2 main characters in your developing original script. A template will be provided that you fill in. (10 points)
3. **Script Analysis:** In order to see how both structure and character progressions work, it's useful to be able to "debone" a produced script creating an analytical "Detailed Outline" for that work. This means to "extract the plot points and significant character moments from the story world." You'll have a template to fill out which I will provide. The idea is to get practice in pinpointing the major dramatic elements in a film you view or script you read and to know their value in the story.
 Students will have a choice of three recently produced films or scripts. (10 points)
5. **Detailed Outline:** Complete a detailed outline of your developing original script. You will be given a template to work with. This is the same template you will have used for analytical "Detailed Outline" of Assignment 3. (10 points)
6. **Short Mini-Doc:** Choose any topic and write a two-column script for a mini-doc. Length: 2-5 pages. (5 points)
7. **Feedback and Discussion Forums:** Provide feedback on the work of a least one fellow student for three assignments. (Logline /Theme-Premise /Detailed Outline) (15 points)
8. **First 10 Scripted Pages of a Feature Film:** Students will write the first 10 – 30 pages of their original scripted film. Requirement is 10 pages. (20 points)
9. **Visual Storytelling:** You will choose one scene in your scripted feature and rewrite the scene without dialogue. The scene should be between 1-3 pages. Review the examples of cinematic storytelling techniques in your textbook, *Cinematic Storytelling*. (10 points)
10. **Final Exam:** The exam will be a take home that will be submitted during exam week.
11. **Bonus Assignments:** Review the examples in your text, *Cinematic Storytelling*.
 - #1 Submit a film clip where the story has been advanced using a visual element. (5 points).

#2. Submit a film clip where the story has been advanced using a sound effect. (5 points).

General Information

Readings: Students are expected to read assigned readings. In each case they will provide necessary information for your assignments.

Late Policy

1. All assignments need to be submitted on time for credit.
2. Please note that it is better to hand in an incomplete assignment for partial credit than miss the deadline and receive no points for the assignment.
3. Bonus Points Assignments: In order to help you protect your GPA and/or in the event of a missed assignment, I have included two extra credit assignments worth 5 points each for a total of 10 points.

Late Policy Exceptions

If students have a valid medical or personal emergency including ones that are due to COVID, please contact me as early as possible. I will do my best to reasonably accommodate you under these circumstances.

Other Difficulties

If you do not feel you can succeed in the class, please review the deadlines for dropping the course so you can protect your GPA.

Adds and Drops

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to add, drop or withdraw from the compliance with the De Anza deadlines and guidelines.

Student Resources

(Screenwriting (Not Yet Re-Opened))

- The Screenwriting Lab is AT111, located on the lower level of the Advanced Technology Center. This provides computers that have copies of the scriptwriting formatting software, Final Draft.
- The Script Library is also in AT111 (Tom Schott can check out screenplays for students)

Student Success Center: Tutoring and Workshops

The [Student Success Center](#) has moved services into virtual rooms via Zoom for all forms of tutoring and workshops.

<http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess>

Examples of services by area during virtual period:

- **General Subjects Tutoring Center**-Finals reviews by chapter for Accounting 1A, 1B and 1C
- **Listening & Speaking Center**-Conversational Workshops and Tutoring by Appointment
- **Math, Science & Technology Resources Center**-Drop-In, Group and Weekly Individual Tutoring for Math, Physics and Chemistry/Biology.
- **Writing & Reading Center**-Drop-In and Weekly Individual Tutoring for any essay or reading assignment.
- Our Academic Skills Center workshops will return in the Spring 2020 quarter during Week 4 through Week 8.

Streaming Resources for Students

Assigned films are not always available for free or available at the services below.

However, here are some resources students can access to view movies both contemporary and classic to increase their film knowledge.

- **KANOPY**: Kanopy titles will be available through the De Anza Library. Both the Santa Clara and San Mateo Public Library Systems offer Kanopy. Theoretically, anyone can obtain a library card from any California library. So students should be able to access Kanopy titles from the De Anza Library, the Santa Clara County Library and/or the San Mateo County Library, among others
- **SWANK**: Limited number of films (25) are licensed. Many classics and new additions like *Parasite*. <https://www.swank.com/digital-campus>
- **SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**: Besides Kanopy, Santa Clara County Library offers 114 videos. Includes such as Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, Ford's *Stagecoach*, Hirokazu's *Shoplifters*, Oslund's *The Square*, Lehmann's *Heathers*, Pawlikowski's *Ida*, Vinterberg's *The Hunt*, and the many celebrated directors of *Paris, Je'taime*, among others.
- **HOOPLA**: Borrow titles instantly from any public library: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- **NFB**: National Film Board of Canada offers most of its titles for free, one of which (*Ice Breakers*) <https://www.nfb.ca/>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is viewed as a serious academic offense. Please refer to the De Anza Student Handbook section on Academic Integrity.

Keeping Copies of Student Work

Students are required to keep originals of all their submitted work. Materials can get lost. This is your insurance policy. Thank you for keeping copies of your work.

Disabled Student Services (DSS)

For students needing accommodation for this class, please contact DSS at DSS@deanaza.edu to set up an appointment with a DSS counselor. He/she will help you set up your accommodation needs.

Good Luck this Semester!