

## **FIS 724 – The Adaptation Screenplay**

**Objective --** To engage the student in the study and practice of the art and craft of adapting a screenplay from another medium. The student will implement that study by writing a full-length (80 pages minimum/100 pages maximum length) screenplay adaptation in accepted industry format.

**Outcome and Assessment –** By the end of this course the student will be able to analyze and discuss the maintenance of metaphor and theme when adapting literary work from different time, cultures and media. The student will demonstrate that ability by creating a full-length screenplay following the specific requirement listed below.

**Requirements --** The source material for the adaptation must be a minimum 100 years old, in the public domain and be approved by the professor with regards to metaphor and structure as the adaptation must be in a contemporary setting. “Contemporary” means right now, not even in the recent past. Student must then “Pitch” proposed material. Pitch must be prepared and done orally in class. The class will participate in the pitch. Once the pitch is approved in class, the student will begin writing. The first draft of the script is due on the day of the final examination.

--Once the entire class has been launched on their scripts, the “in-class” work will consist of studying a series of adaptations and analyzing to what degree they work and how they were executed. The students will be responsible for short analytical papers concerning these adaptations. This should inform the students as they are in their process of writing.

--Assessment of the students’ work will be based on the ability to maintain tone and metaphor in adapting and creating the material. Attention will be paid to the pitch (30%) of grade and the first draft of the script (50% of grade) and how the script progresses from one stage to the next. The remaining 20% of the grade will be based on the written response to the film adaptations studied in class.

**IMPORTANT --** As a film major you will be presented with opportunities to work in the production of your own projects, other student or faculty projects, projects for other classes and even professional projects that will shoot in town. You are encouraged you to take advantage of every opportunity to practice and hone your art and craft but not at the expense of your work in this class. Participation in any production outside of this class is not an excuse for failing to complete any and all responsibilities established in this course.

**Academic Misconduct—**Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct

is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information: <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning> or <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I”

grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Library Resources** -- Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian: <https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians>. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

### **Schedule of Classes**

Because this is a workshop writing class, the schedule is bound to change given the vagaries of the muse. Be prepared for changes. The priority will be development of the scripts over film study and analysis as the latter is all in support of the former.

**Aug 31** – Introduction. Discussion of possible material. Format. Discussion of examples.

**Sep 7** – Pitches Begin.

**Sep 14** – Pitches Continue.

**Sep 21** – Pitches continue.

**Sep 28** – – Screen Jane Austen’s Emma – discuss themes and metaphors – update examination of source material.

**Oct 5** – Screen Clueless – compare and contrast. Discuss the process as observed. Update examination of source material..

**Oct 12** All pitches should be concluded or conclude on this date. – Screen Great Expectations – period version. Mid-Term Exam

**Oct 19** –Screen Great Expectations contemporary version. Paper: Compare and contrast.

**Oct 26** – **Nevada Day.**

**Nov 2** -- Screen Dangerous Liaisons. Discuss adaptation to screen

**Nov 9** – Screen Cruel Intentions. Discuss. Compare and contrast writing assignment.

**Nov 16** – Updates on scripts. Troubleshooting. Screen: Bleak House. Consider the book, then the script, then screen. Discourse.

**Nov 23** – Thanksgiving Break

**Nov 30** – Workshop Scripts

**Dec 7** – Workshop Scripts.

**Dec 14** – **Final Exam – Final Workshop**