

FIS 722 Graduate Screenwriting

Objective: To engage the student in the study of screenwriting in the form of writing and revising a feature-length screenplay and in the analysis of other original screenplays in a writing intensive conservatory environment with the emphasis on practice and repetition.

Outcome: By the end of this course, the student will have a minimum of an “active” feature pitch and a working draft of a feature screenplay as well as being conversant in the structure and format of both. As this is the core class for the Writing for Dramatic Media graduate program and is required every semester, the student’s collection of work in various stages will increase every semester.

The student shall be able to identify and distinguish the elements of screenplay format and be able to demonstrate the correct usage of those elements in practice. The student shall be able to collaborate in the outline, or pitch, process with all member of the class and evaluate the group input and apply appropriate content to his or her script. The student will create a screenplay demonstrating correct format and a command of the story established in the outline, or pitch, process.

Assessment: Completion of an original full-length (85-102 page) screenplay and/or a rewrite of an existing full-length screenplay (70% of grade). Positive and cooperative participation in response to other student work, both written and oral. (30 % of grade). The response requirement will be met in a timely fashion. It is unfair to your peers and to yourself not to be prepared for the workshop experience. Trying to skim a script you haven’t read while it is being discussed in not acceptable.

Assignments are due on specified dates. Malfunctioning or unavailable technology or machines is NOT an excuse.

All discussions will be respectful and professional. Any student unable to deport him/herself in a professional manner will be counseled and/or dropped from the class at the discretion of the instructor.

Schedule of Classes: The expectation is that there will be one pitch and one script workshop in each session. This will change as we adapt to everyone’s needs. There may be days of three workshops or four pitches. We will have class discussion and analysis of scripts by “outside” writers. You will be responsible for reading and responding to these as if they were your own. We will spend additional time on certain issues, topics, scripts, and guest speakers as the opportunity arises. Write in the participants on the lines provided as the schedule begins to take shape.

Jan 19 — Form and Format Lecture: Our Style Book — Updates on Work

Jan 26 -- _____

Feb 2 -- _____

Feb 9 — _____
Feb 16-- _____
Feb 23-- _____
Mar 2 -- _____
Mar 9 -- _____
Mar 16 — _____
Mar 23 -- _____
Mar 30-- _____
Apr 6 -- _____
Apr 13 — _Spring Break!_
Apr 20 — _____
Apr 27-- _____
May 4 — _____
MAY 11 --Final Exams _____

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 is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. 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. 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>.