School of Communication
University of Miami

CIM 386 Y
WRITING THE GENRE SCRIPT – ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING
SUMMER SEMESTER B 2019
INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Leibell
OFFICE HOURS: Please email for a conference by
Phone or Skype
Email: dleibell@miami.edu
TELEPHONE: (305) 582-6571

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

This screenwriting course is offered online. Students will analyze films through the lens of genre: Drama, Comedy, Horror, Romance, Sci-Fi, Coming-of-Age. Students will be required to write a script and critiques on the genre conceits of the assigned films.

Since this is an Online Distance Learning course, all coursework and assignments are on Blackboard. All completed assignments should be posted online through Blackboard. Script pages MUST BE written with screenwriting software such as Final Draft or Amazon Story Writer. The instructor will give notes on assignments to the student via Blackboard. At any time, the student may email or meet with the instructor to have questions answered, ideas discussed, or aspects of the screenwriting process explored.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Intro Screenwriting Class

MATERIALS FEES: None

ASSIGNMENTS

There are nine assignments in this course:

• Assignment #1: Quiz on PowerPoint Lectures: Review of the Basic Concepts of Dramatic Screenwriting and and Film Genres with Storytelling Strategies
  Students will review Power Point Lectures and take a Quiz with approximately 100 questions. Each question is worth one point for an aggregate of 100 points.
• Assignment #2-6: Critiques of Scripts based on Genre

Students will read screenplays/watch films in the assigned genres and write a brief critique of each script according to the format provided. Critiques should give specific examples from the screenplay to support observations. Each critique is worth 100 points.

• Assignment #8: Genre Short Script

Students will write a short script (10-15 pages) based on their chosen genre, premise and outline. Instructor will give notes for revisions and a preliminary grade on Draft #1. Students will rewrite their scripts based on the Instructor’s notes and receive a final grade on Draft #2. The script will be graded on Genre Structure (25%), Character (25%), Scene Design (25%), Writing Style and Format (25%).

1. Please note that in screenwriting APPEARANCES ARE IMPORTANT. Incorrect punctuation, obvious bad grammar, or improper usage of format will result in points deducted from your assignment grade, up to 25 points total for errors.

2. Each assignment must be submitted by the designated deadline. TEN points will be deducted from any assignment that is late without a valid excuse.

TEXTS AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

FINAL DRAFT or Amazon Storywriter screenwriting software.

Recommended for Reference:


GRADING/EVALUATION:

Assignment 1: Quiz on PowerPoint Lectures 5%
Assignments 2-6: Critiques of Scripts 30%
Assignment 8: Final Short Genre Script 65%

Total 100%

All grades will be determined on a percentage basis: A+= 98-100, A = 94-97%, A= 90-93, B+ 87-89, B = 84-86%, B= 80-83, C+ 77-79, C= 74-76, C- = 70-73%, D = 60-69%, F=59 and below. All School of Communication majors must pass this course with at least a C. (C- is not acceptable.)
ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is not taken in this Online Screenwriting Class. It is up to the student to pace himself/herself with respect to turning in assignments.

INCOMPLETE GRADES: Save serious illness or other excused emergency, there will be no final “I” (incomplete) grades issued. All work will be considered final at the end of the term and all assignments will receive a grade. Work not submitted will receive a failing grade. Academic dishonesty of any kind, for whatever reason, will not be tolerated.

REWRITE POLICY: Script assignments can be rewritten for a higher grade and turned in within TWO WEEKS of the original due date. Quizzes and essays cannot be resubmitted for a higher grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES: Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, need to be registered with the Office for Disability Services, which is housed in the Academic Development Center (Whitten University Center, Suite N201).

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY: It is the student’s obligation to provide faculty members with notice of the dates they will be absent for religious holy days, preferably before the beginning of classes but no later than the end of the first three (3) class days. Absences due to observance of religious holy days not pre-arranged within the first three class days may be considered unexcused and there is no obligation to allow any make up work, including examinations. Missing a class due to travel plans associated with a particular religious holy day does not constitute an excused absence. The University’s complete Religious Holy Day Policy can be found in the 2019-2020 Bulletin.

HONOR CODE STATEMENT: Students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the University of Miami Honor Code. The purpose of the Honor Code is to protect the academic integrity of the University by encouraging consistent ethical behavior in assigned coursework.

No honest student wants to be guilty of the intellectual crime of plagiarism, even unintentionally. Therefore, we provide you with these guidelines so that you don't accidentally fall into the plagiarism trap.

Plagiarism is the taking of someone else's words, work, or ideas, and passing them off as a product of your own efforts. Plagiarism may occur when a person fails to place quotation marks around someone else's exact words, directly rephrasing or paraphrasing someone else's words while still following the general form of the original, and/or failing to issue the proper citation to one's source material.

In student papers, plagiarism is often due to...

- turning in someone else's paper as one's own
- using another person's data or ideas without acknowledgment
• failing to cite a written source (printed or internet) of information that you used to collect data or ideas
• copying an author's exact words and putting them in the paper without quotation marks
• rephrasing an author's words and failing to cite the source
• copying, rephrasing, or quoting an author's exact words and citing a source other than where the material was obtained. (For example, using a secondary source which cites the original material, but citing only the primary material. This misrepresents the nature of the scholarship involved in creating the paper.
• using wording that is very similar to that of the original source, but passing it off as one's own.

The last item is probably the most common problem in student writing. It is still plagiarism if the student uses an author's key phrases or sentences in a way that implies they are his/her own, even if s/he cites the source.

COURSE TOPICS OUTLINE

Week 1: Lecture: Power Point Lectures on Basic Concepts of Dramatic Screenwriting And Genre
July 1-5

Read: Genre Screenwriting by Stephen Duncan

DUE: Friday, July 5 – Assignment #1: Quiz on PowerPoint Lectures and Textbook

Week 2: Lecture: Analyses of Genre Films
July 8-12

Asst # 2: Writing Based on Character Types: Female Underdogs in Drama, Comedy, Sports, & Sci Fi Genres
Watch: Erin Brokovich, Bridesmaids, Million Dollar Baby or Girlfright, and Alien

Asst #3: Writing Based on Issues: Racism in America in the Thriller, Fantasy and Drama Genres
Watch: Get Out, The Green Mile, and American History X

DUE: Friday, July 12 – Assignments #2 & #3: Analysis of Films
Week 3: Lecture: Analyses of Genre Films
July 15-19

Asst #4: Writing Based on an Inner Problem: Needing to Let Go of Someone and Move on in the Family, Horror, and Coming-of-Age Genres
Watch: Toy Story 3, The Others and Diary of a Teenage Girl

Asst #5: Writing Based on a Theme: Sacrificing for the Greater Good in Crime, Drama, Sci Fi Genres
Watch: In Bruges, Gran Torino, and Hunger Games

DUE: Friday, July 19 – Assignments #4 & #5: Analysis of Films

Week 4: Lecture: WRITE YOUR GENRE SCRIPT
July 22-26

Week 5: Lecture: TURN IN DRAFT #1
July 29 – Aug 2

DUE: Friday, August 2 – Assignments #6: First Draft of Final Script
Instructor will give notes on your first draft and receive a preliminary grade. Based on these notes, you will rewrite your script and receive a final grade based on the implementation of these notes.

Week 6: Lecture: REWRITE YOUR SCRIPT
Aug 5-7

DUE: Friday, August 9 – Assignment #8: Final Rewritten Genre Script
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED AND READ THE SYLLABUS FOR CIM 386 Y FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER B 2019. I HAVE COMPLETED THE PREREQUISITE COURSES LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS OR HAVE HAD THE PROFESSOR SIGN BELOW TO CERTIFY A WAIVER OF THE PREREQUISITES.

SIGNED: __________________________________________

PRINT NAME: _______________________________________

DATE: ______________________