

## **From Mind to Movie: Screenwriting for Beginners**

**Course goals:** gain general knowledge of screenwriting as well as learn techniques to writing a concise, well-structured, and compelling script. At the end of the course students will have written a variety of short exercises and short 5-10 page script.

**Homework:** homework is optional, but essential if you wish to have a finished short script by the end of the 8 week course. All assignments can be e-mailed in Final Draft or Pdf format by Sunday evening to [contact@naominoir.com](mailto:contact@naominoir.com) for feedback by Tuesday's class.

### **Week 1: Intro to Screenwriting**

Theme, genre, coming up with a screenplay idea that will sustain momentum through Second Act, formatting script: descriptions/ action/ dialogue, screenwriting software, general overview of course

**Homework:** paragraph summary of two script ideas

### **Week 2: Plot + Structure**

Plot vs. character as ways to approach writing a script, short vs. feature-length scripts, Three Act Structure (plot points), non-traditional structures, central conflict

**Homework:** Three-act structure for your film idea

### **Week 3: Character**

Character tree (traits/ history), character arcs, wants vs. needs, Enneagram, how to get audience to identify with character

**Homework:** Character Tree of main character in your script

### **Week 4: Outlines**

Beat-sheet, Treatment, Sequences (Frank Daniel)

**Homework:** Write beat sheet divided into sequences for your script

### Week 5: **Visual Story-telling**

Telling story through action/ behavior rather than dialogue, visual descriptions (as if/ like...),  
Scene of Introduction

**Homework:** Write a 'Scene of Introduction' for a character in your script without using dialogue

### Week 6: **Dialogue**

Finding your character's voice, how to avoid on-the-nose dialogue, words vs. action (or how to let your character lie)

**Homework:** start writing short script

### Week 7: **Scene Writing**

Brief overview of the different types of scenes, Power Struggle Scenes vs. Scenes of Negotiation, Scenes of Decision

**Homework:** e-mail copy of short script for feedback

### Week 6: **Selling your Script + the Second Draft**

Loglines, the pitch + tips for editing, techniques for overcoming writer's block

**Homework:** start your second draft, write a treatment, outline your next film, write!