

FILM 378RW/ENG 378RW: Screenwriting
Oxford College of Emory University
Fall 2017

Professor: Dr. David Resha

Office: Humanities 205C

Email: dresha@emory.edu (the best way to reach me). Please do not use Canvas to email me.

Phone: x4692

Office Hours: T,TH 12:30pm-1:30pm, Wednesday 1:20pm-2:20pm. I am always happy to set up a time to meet outside of my office hours.

Occasionally, I will be pulled away during office hours for a meeting. If you plan on attending office hours, please let me know in advance so I can be sure to be present.

Some Film-related Links:

Oxford Film and Media Studies Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OxfordFilmStudies

Emory College Film and Media Studies Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/EmoryFilm/

Kanopy Streaming (free for Emory students): <http://emory.kanopystreaming.com/>

Class Meetings:

This class meets on Monday and Wednesday from 2:30pm-4:10pm in the Faculty Technology Development Center.

Course Description:

This course focuses on writing screenplays using classical narrative structure. In particular, the class examines conventional storytelling elements like goals, conflicts, development, and resolution and how these are employed to clearly tell a story, engage the viewers' attention, and elicit emotions from the audience. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Examine screenwriting manuals, screenplays, and films, with particular attention to narrative patterns and continuities
- Employ storytelling conventions in a coherent, unified, and engaging manner.
- Use proper screenwriting format
- Constructively critique screenplays, including your classmates and your own.

Required Texts:

Hauge, Michael. *Writing Screenplays That Sell* (New York: HaperPerennial, 2011).

Final Draft 9 Educational (\$129.99- www.finaldraft.com) or Celtx (price has varied, free now at www.celtx.com). There may other cheaper/free software programs. You are free to use them, just as long as you are conforming to the proper screenwriting format.

Additional readings will be available on Canvas

You will have to do a fair amount of printing throughout the semester. Please factor this into the cost of the course

Grade Distribution:

Quizzes and Short Assignments	10%
Informed and Professional Participation	10%
3 Script Pitches	15%
Short Script 1	15%
Short Script 2	20%
Long Script 1	30%

Screenplays:

You will write three screenplays utilizing the concepts discussed in class and in the readings. All of your screenplays should be typed according to the proper format discussed in class.

I am always available to help you with your written work. At some point, you may want the help of others, including the services of the Writing Center. If you go to seek help writing your papers, make sure you bring your paper assignment with you, as it will help the Writing Center staff tailor their advice to your particular project. The Writing Center is located on the second floor of the Oxford Library (website: <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/centers-institutes-programs/writing-center/>).

Quizzes and Short Assignments:

You will take a quiz at the beginning of many classes. The quizzes focus on the main ideas of the reading for that day or on the film screening to be discussed that day. You are allowed to drop your lowest quiz score.

You will also have short assignments due throughout the semester, including screening reports on the films you will watch outside of class. Unless otherwise instructed, these are one page, typed, double-spaced responses to the question(s) posed during class. Your absence from class is not an adequate excuse for not handing in your short assignments on time. I do not accept late assignments.

Screenings:

Throughout the semester, you may be asked to watch films outside of class. These films will be available on reserve in the library.

Readings:

You should complete the readings prior to each lecture. We will not always go over all of the material in lecture or discussion, but you should still read carefully and take notes. Also, please bring readings to class so that you may reference them in discussion.

Attendance:

Diligent attendance is absolutely required, both in lecture and for the screenings. I will take lecture attendance every day. Every absence over three will result in a half-letter grade reduction of your final grade. These three allowed absences are for medical and family emergencies. You do not get three “free” absences in addition to emergency circumstances.

Consistent tardiness is not tolerated. Three late arrivals to class constitutes one full absence. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, you will be marked absent.

Participation:

Simply being present in class is not sufficient to receive an excellent participation and attendance grade. In addition to being present, you must also make informed, meaningful, and consistent contributions to class discussion. You will need to provide constructive criticism of your classmates work as well as be willing to take seriously others' comments about your own work. You are expected to be attentive throughout the course and not violate any of the classroom policies, such as looking at your phone during class.

Classroom Policies:

Please do not use laptops, cell phones, iPads, etc. during class.

Late Assignments:

All assignments must be turned in when specified. I do not accept late assignments. There will be no extra credit assignments this semester. Assignments are to be typed and printed out unless specified. Do not email me assignments unless I ask.

E-mail:

I will occasionally send out email announcements or lecture supplements via email. Plan on checking your emory.edu email account frequently during the semester.

Academic Accommodations:

Access, Disability Services and Resources (ADSR) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, students must contact ADSR and complete the registration process. Faculty may not provide disability accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed; accommodations are not retroactive. Students registered with ADSR who receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with their professor to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible. Contact Access, Disability Services and Resources for more information (770) 784-4690 or adsroxford@emory.edu. Additional information is available at the ADSR website at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>.

Religious Holidays:

Professors are encouraged, not required, to accommodate students' academic needs related to religious holidays. Please make every effort to negotiate your religious holiday needs within the first two weeks of the semester; waiting longer may compromise your professor's ability to extend satisfactory arrangements. If you need guidance negotiating your needs related to a religious holiday, the College Chaplain, Rev. Lyn Pace, ppace@emory.edu, Candler Hall 202, is willing and available to help. Please be aware that Rev. Pace is not tasked with excusing students from classes or writing excuses for

students to take to their professors. Emory's official list of religious holidays may be found at http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith_traditions/holidays.html.

Academic Misconduct:

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic misconduct, which includes conferring with classmates on graded assignments. Unless explicitly stated by the professor and the assignment, you are not to collaborate in any way with anyone on your coursework. The penalty for any academic misconduct is a final grade of "F" for the semester. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. For more information on academic misconduct, see the Oxford College Student Honor code website at <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/divisions-degrees/policies/code-of-conduct/student-honor-code/>.

**FS 378RW: Screenwriting
Course Schedule**

Week One: Introduction (8/23)

Week Two: Screenwriting and Story Concept (8/28 & 8/30)

Reading: Hauge, Part One, Section One and Two (1-45)

Week Three: Character Development, Theme, and Character Arc (9/6)

Note: No Class on 9/4 – Labor Day

Reading: Hauge, Part One, Section Three and Four (46-90)

Week Four: Character Development, Theme, and Character Arc (9/11 & 9/13)

Reading: TBA

Week Five: Structure (9/18 & 9/20)

Reading: Hauge, Part One, Section Five (91-135)

Week Six: Writing Individual Scenes (9/25 & 9/27)

Reading: Hauge, Part Two, Section Six (139-184)

Week Seven: Script Pitch #1 (10/2 & 10/4)

☆ ☆ Short Script Pitch due on 10/2 ☆ ☆

Week Eight: Film/Script Analysis (10/11)

☆ ☆ Short Script 1 due 10/12 emailed to the class by 10am ☆ ☆

Note: No Class on 10/9 – Fall Break

Reading: Hauge 196-230

Week Nine: Script Critique (10/16 & 10/18)

Week Ten: Writing for Television (10/23 & 10/25)

Reading: Hauge, 231-305

Week Eleven: Script Pitch #2 (10/30 & 11/1)

☆ ☆ Short Script Pitch due on 10/30 ☆ ☆

Week Twelve: Working in the Industry: Guest Speaker (11/8)

Note: No Class on 11/6

☆ ☆ Short Script 2 due 11/9 emailed to the class by 10am ☆ ☆

Week Thirteen: Script Critique (11/13 & 11/15)

Week Fourteen: TBA (11/20)

Note: No Class on 11/22 – Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen: Long Script Pitch (11/27 & 11/29)

☆ ☆ Long Script Pitch due on 11/27 ☆ ☆

Week Sixteen: Individual Script Consultations (12/24)

☆ ☆ Long Script Due TBA ☆ ☆

☆ ☆ Long Script Critique on Wednesday, December 13th, 2pm-5pm ☆ ☆