

COURSE SYLLABUS - COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

January 18 – May 10

I. COURSE INFORMATION

SEMESTER: Fall YEAR: 2017

COURSE NAME: Film 3315 - 002 - Screenwriting

CRN: 27293

CLASSROOM: Undergraduate Learning Ctr 208 - Wed. 3:00 PM to 5:50 PM

TEXT: Not required

MATERIALS: YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL – CELTX
FREE DESKTOP SOFTWARE:

For Windows: <http://celtx.en.softonic.com/download>

For Mac: celtx.soft32.com

Do not subscribe to their online services. Use custom install and decline all extra software offers during Setup.

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

NAME: Harry W. Martin (Marty Martin)

OFFICE LOCATION: In classroom unless otherwise specified

OFFICE HOURS: Before class from 2:00 – 2:50 PM or after class from 5:00 PM – 5:40 PM and by appointment.

PHONE: 755-2830

CELL PHONE: Text only 799-6278 (include your full name)

EMAIL: hmartin@elp.rr.com

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: A workshop where students will be introduced to the tools and discipline necessary to write tightly structured, dramatic scenes in order to tell stories through moving images, dramatic action, characterization, and dialogue. Each student will also write two short screenplays intended for minimal production. Emulation of the broadest possible spectrum of film styles and approaches is encouraged.

- B. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn the fundamentals of professional screenplay structure and formatting, story and plot development, character development, dialogue, conflict, style, visual narrative, seeing through the camera, screen vocabulary, and technique required for the writing of feature-length screenplays.
- C. LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will demonstrate aptitude in storytelling techniques and expertise in skillful communication and self-expression, giving constructive feedback to peers, contextualize their own choices within dramatic and cinematic literary history and theory, and manifest a personal approach to the techniques of dramatic writing.

Assessment tool: Final script writing project in FILM 3315
Standard: 80% will receive an A, B, or C grade on final paper

- D. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: lectures, group projects, group discussion, oral presentations.
- E. ASSIGNED READINGS: Various screenplays as provided by the Instructor.
- E. ASSIGNMENTS: Students will write 1 short screenplay of approximately 15-20 minute duration (approximately 10-20 pages) which will constitute 75% of their grades according to the following scale:

Concept/Story - 25% / Character/Conflict - 25% / Formatting - 25%

Attendance and class participation will constitute the remaining 25% of the students' grades.

Students will bring a dedicated notebook and pen to every class.

Students will pitch their concepts/ideas for script in a 2 minute presentation to the class prior to beginning the written assignment.

Students will give readings of their scripts and provide oral/written critiques.

G. GRADING SCALE:

1. 90 - 100 A
2. 80 - 89 B
3. 70 - 79 C
4. 60 - 69 D
5. 0 - 59 F

IV. **RULES, CLASSROOM POLICIES/ ETC.**

ATTENDANCE: recorded each day however students will not be dropped from the class because of absences. It will be the responsibility of the students to drop the class themselves if they do not intend to complete the course. **Any unexcused absence will reduce the student's grade by 5%.**

LATE WORK: will receive a grade of zero unless arrangements have been made with the Instructor prior to the assignment's due date.

Stay in touch with your Instructor.

All cell phones will be turned off prior to commencement of class. No exceptions. Any student using a cell phone during class for any reason will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day and counted absent.

Students may not wear hats, sunglasses, mouth or tongue piercings, or chew gum during oral presentations.

Students will not have earphones in their ears during class and laptops can only be used in class with permission from the Instructor.

All students are required to attend class on the day and time of the institution's scheduled final.

V. **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

VI. **CASS POLICY**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

Jan 18 Orientation, Introduction, history, and script formatting for spec screenplays. Watch short film. Assignment: Written Review.

Jan 25 Story, Character, Conflict, Dialogue, Visual narrative, the Camera

Feb 1 Study short films and writing exercise

Feb 8 2 minute pitch for each script concept.

Feb 13 2 minute pitch for each script concept.

Feb 20 2 minute pitch for each script concept.

Feb 27 Begin script, Setup (act 1)

Mar 1 Begin Complications (act 2)

Mar 8 Begin Payoff (act 3)

Mar 15 SPRING BREAK

Mar 22 Script readings and discussion

Mar 29 Script readings and discussion

Apr 5 Script readings and discussion

Apr 12 Script readings and discussion

Apr 19 Script readings and discussion

Apr 26 Script readings and discussion

May 3 Script readings and discussion

May 10 Final Class – Completion deadline - Script readings and discussion

YOU MUST BE PRESENT.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ ASSIGNMENTS, DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.