Course Number: Comm-3360_001
Course Title: Screenplay Writing
Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Maymester 2015
Time/Location: MTWR 12:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. BH 202

Instructor: Edward R. Tyndall
Office: 233 B Bay Hall
Office Hours: Mon, Tues and Wed 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
Email: edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu Phone: 361-825-2296


REQUIRED MATERIALS:
Access to a printer/ funds to print 16 copies of each assignment

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
Analysis and writing of the screenplay for narrative fictional films. Writing projects include problem-solving exercises and work on an original screenplay.

PRE/COREQUISITES: None

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
-Demonstrate effective collaborative screenplay workshop techniques through successful participation in an intensive screenwriting workshop.
-Illustrate mastery of dramatic structure through conceptualizing, outlining and writing multiple drafts of a short narrative screenplay.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/documentation). No incompletes will be given for this course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Strict attendance is required. There are no “excused” absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within 2 days of your return to class. Given the condensed nature of maymester courses, after one unexcused absence the student will be given a failing grade in the course. Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.
DROPPING A CLASS:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts
website, http://cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**GRADING:**
- 15% Script Pitch
- 35% Step Outline
- 40% Script Draft
- 10% Workshop Participation and Readings

**GRADING SCALE:**
- 100 – 90 = A
- 89.99 – 80 = B
- 79.99 – 70 = C
- 69.99 – 60 = D
- 59.99 – 0 = F

**TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

**May 14th** --- Review Course Material, Screening “Sequences: The Hidden Structure of Successful Screenplays”, Table Reading “Shock Act”, Screening “Shock Act”.
**Due** --- None
**Assignment** --- Read “Writing Short Films”, Read All Handouts, Begin Work Pitches

**May 18th** --- Pitches
**Due** --- Hand in Pitches
**Book Reading Due** --- Reading of “Writing Short Films” completed
**Assignment** --- Write Step Outlines

**May 19th** --- Workshop Step Outlines
**Due** --- Step Outlines! Bring Enough Copies for Everyone

**May 20th** --- Workshop Step Outlines

**May 21st** --- Workshop For Step Outlines
**Assignment** --- Write Script Drafts!

**May 25th** --- No Class, Memorial Day!

**May 26th** --- Workshop Script Drafts
**Due** --- Turn in First Draft! Bring Enough Copies for Everyone

**May 27th** --- Workshop Script Drafts

**May 28th** --- Workshop Script Drafts

**May 29th** --- Workshop Script Drafts
Resources for Screenwriters

Screenwriting Format:
Software available for formatting includes Movie Magic Screenwriter and Final Draft. These programs will greatly increase your writing efficiency given the technical formatting issues required in writing scripts. You should be able to get a copy of these programs at an academic discount from several vendors.

If you decide to “do it yourself” you can find information regarding proper formatting techniques at http://www.simplyscripts.com/WR_format.html

You can also use Celtx, which is free and downloadable at http://celtx.com/

Screenwriting Magazines:
The following magazines are great resources for information regarding screenwriting. They have associated websites with all sorts of valuable information.

Creative Screenwriting
http://www.csweb.ws/csw/index.cfm
Creative Screenwriting Magazine also has a great Podcast available for free through the iTunes Store that features weekly interviews with working screenwriters.

Script Magazine
http://www.scriptmag.com/

Filmmaker Magazine
Filmmaker Magazine is a great resource for independent filmmakers
http://filmmakermagazine.com

IndieWire
Indiewire is filled with great blogs and news related to indie film production
http://www.indiewire.com

Withoutabox:
You can submit screenplays (and films) to film festivals by going to Withoutabox http://www.withoutabox.com/, create an account, and choose from the “Call for Scripts” section to pick festivals. If you decide to submit to one, you should be able to receive a discounted rate for most festivals using your student status.