Course Number: Comm-3360_001
Course Title: Screenplay Writing
Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Maymester 2017
Time/Location: MTWR 12:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Classroom BH 207

Instructor: Edward R. Tyndall
Office: 233 B Bay Hall
Office Hours: Mon, Tues and Wed 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
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REQUIRED MATERIALS:
Access to a printer/ funds to print 21 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 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F.
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 one week (seven days) after you return to class.

After the second (2nd) absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (3.33 points on a 100-point scale) for each absence. After the fifth (5th) 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.

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.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:
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.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a
student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards
as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading,
may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to
demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade
is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details,
including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of
days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure
13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures available at
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade
_appeal_procedure.pdf. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade
appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the
grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

GRADING:
25% Step Outline
60% Script Draft
15% 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 15th --- Review Course Material, Table Reading “Shock Act”, Screening “Shock Act”. Screening various other short films
Due --- None
Assignment --- Read “Writing Short Films”, Read All Handouts, Write Step Outlines
May 16th --- Workshop Step Outlines
Due --- Step Outlines! Bring Enough Copies for Everyone

May 17th --- Workshop Step Outlines

May 18th --- Workshop Step Outlines
Book Reading Due --- Reading of “Writing Short Films” completed
Assignment --- Write Script Drafts!

May 22nd --- Workshop Script Drafts
Due --- Turn in Script Draft! Bring Enough Copies for Everyone

May 23rd --- Workshop Script Drafts

May 24th --- Workshop Script Drafts

May 25th --- Workshop Script Drafts

May 26th --- 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 notes Podcast

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.

Things To Get Involved In!

Like the Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/tamucc.mediaproduction/

South Texas Cinémathèque Screening Series
South Texas Cinémathèque, a collaborative screening series run by The Department of Communication and Media and the Art Museum of South Texas, is designed to broaden Media students’ exposure to independent film by bringing internationally recognized filmmakers to Corpus Christi, Texas for discussions, screenings and lectures. South Texas Cinémathèque’s past guests are recipients of some of the most prestigious awards given in independent film. The series gives students rare opportunities to interact with internationally recognized film artists while broadening their understanding of the filmmaking process.

Student Showcase
Each year the Production Track Student Showcase offers students an opportunity to screen their coursework to live audiences in a theatrical environment. Selective inclusion in the showcase provides students with networking opportunities and serves as a portfolio-building event.

Media Professional Program
The Media Professional Program gives Production Track Students diverse learning opportunities while working with active industry professionals on faculty led film projects. Students train with production experts in intensive shooting environments while serving in key crew positions such as Assistant Camera Operator, Production Sound Mixer, Script Supervisor, Assistant Director, Production Assistant and more.

Production Club Workshops
The Production Club affords Advanced Students an opportunity to meet regularly under the supervision of Media Production Faculty to practice advanced production techniques as a supplement to in-class learning.

**Production Club Screenings**
Informal screenings hosted regular throughout the semester to expose Media Production Students to innovative cinema and to help foster a culture of creativity, collaboration and inquiry within the Media Production program.

**Media Production Writers’ Room**
A student led and faculty supervised screenwriting workshop designed to produce extracurricular screenplays for short film and to improve visual storytelling skills for narrative film. Each semester the workshop will culminate in a table reading event in collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance.