Course Number: MEDA_3360_001
Course Title: Lecture Screenplay Writing
Credit Hours: 3
Semester: Spring 2020
Time/Location: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am-12:15 am
Instructor: Gabe Duran
Office: Bay Hall, Room 223B
Office Hours: Tuesday-9:00-10:00 am and 12:30-1:45 pm/ Wednesday-12:00-3:00 pm by appointment
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Course Objective

Through classroom discussion of student writings and study of screenplays, films and readings, students will strengthen their familiarity with the structural elements of the motion picture screenplay with well-developed plot, characters, setting. Students will become familiar with the general guiding elements of dramatic structure and character development in a variety of styles of storytelling

Text Book
Suggested Text book (The Anatomy of Story) By John Truby

Assignments:

First Project: Write a short silent script, three pages max.

Presentation/and Adaption- (1) Presentation of a selected professional screen writer in either television or film. Must present works that are of significant importance and show how it will relate to you. The presentation must have a bio of the writer, how his or her writing style fits yours. Please be very detailed in what makes the writer stand out. Please use clips of video from their work and other creative ways to make a visual presentation. 15-20 min in length. Must be in Power point or PDF. (2) Must select a scene from your presented writer and transcribe a scene in your own words. Must be turned in at the end of class. Min 3 -Max 10 pages.

Third Project: Collaborate in writing a script together. 15 pages max

Final Project: Each student writes an original 10-20-minute short script. This project will be submitted in three stages; first, as a treatment; second, as a first draft; and third, as a final and completed screenplay.
Evaluation/Grading:

First Project: 100 pts

Second Project: 150 pts

Final Project: 200 pts total: (Act 1) 50 pts, (Act 2) 50 pts, (Act 3) 50 pts, (Formatting) 50 pts

Participation/attendance: 50 pts

Total: 500 pts.

Grading Criteria: You must have excellent attendance and participation to receive an “A” in the class. Three unexcused absences will equal one whole letter grade drop. It is the instructors’ expectation that you will not use a cell phone (unless this is a specific accommodation that you arrange with the instructor) during class. Late Assignments: For every week an assignment is late, one letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for that assignment. Assignments are to be handed in and printed on paper when the instructor assigns the due date.

Spring 2020 Calendar:

Week 1 (1/21 and 1/23)
Intro to writing screenplay spec format. Definitions of a treatment vs. synopsis. Brainstorming session to create list of transitions. Review the first assignment, the three-page silent film

Week 2 (1/28 and 1/30)
Read and workshop over the rough draft of first project. Lecture on the three-act structure.

Week 3 (2/4 and 2/6)
Final draft of the first project is due. Discussion/Workshop.

Week 4 (2/11 and 2/13)
Students “pitch” to the class their adaptation idea. Work in groups to break down and analyze successful short films then each group will present their findings. Break short film down into parts; characters, pace, dialogue, foreshadowing and acts

Week 5 (2/18 and 2/20)
First draft due in class of second assignment. Work in groups to break down and analyze successful short films then each group will present their findings.

Week 6 (2/25 and 2/27)
Final draft due of project two is due! Adaptation. Review in Class.

Week 7 (3/4 and 3/5)
Discuss project three, group script, collaborate in writing a script together. Brainstorm ideas and discuss act 1.

Week 8 (3/10 and 12) NO CLASS
First draft of project three (group script) is due! Work shop in class.
**Week 9 (3/17 and 3/19)**

**Project three is due! MUST BE TURNED IN:**

**Emailed -BY 12 am Thursday night! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Week 10 (3/24 and 3/26)**

Scene analysis techniques. Discuss scenes from “City of God”.

**Week 11 (3/31 and 4/2)**

Students “pitch” their final script ideas.

**Week 12 (4/7 and 4/9)**

1-page treatment due of final script.

**Week 13 (4/14 and 4/16)**

First draft due of final script!

**Week 14 (4/21 and 4/23)**

Meetings with each student to review final edits.

**Week 15 (4/28 and 4/30)**

Final scripts are due

Throughout this semester we will be viewing a wide variety of work from artists in all cultures, religions, languages and lifestyles. This work has been carefully chosen to expose the students to different points of view and the artistic methods utilized to express those points of view. Some of the work may contain material with which some students may not be comfortable. If at any point in time a student becomes excessively uncomfortable with material being viewed they are welcome to exit the class for the remainder of that video piece and to return for the discussion of that piece.

**SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE:** The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance via class lecture, email and Blackboard.

**BLACKBOARD/EMAIL:** ALWAYS CHECK YOUR EMAIL WITHIN AN HOUR BEFORE CLASS – we may have changes in assignments, meeting, etc.

**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.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:
• Using the work of another as your own,
• Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
• Using resource materials without correct documentation,
• Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
• Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.
When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Statement of Academic Continuity: In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Statement of Civility: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

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) unexcused absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by 5 points (on a 100-point scale). After the third (3rd) 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. Failure to attend class during the screening of your work will result in a zero on that assignment. This includes the final exam.

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 class be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop 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. November 8th, 2019 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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 Appeals: As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, 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.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals.

These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html

**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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* 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.