GEO
Study Abroad

<u>**SYLLABUS**</u>

TITLE: Screenwriting
Instructor: Mark O' Connor
Language of Instruction: English
UO Credits:
Contact Hours*:
Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities*: 40

Dublin, Ireland

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is devoted to exploring the ins and outs of feature film screenwriting, with emphasis shown to the crime genre. Through the exploration of the craft, students will acquire an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how to develop a screenplay from core idea to fully finished screenplay.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will combine analytical and practical approaches to learning with the objective of giving students a comprehensive understanding of the craft of screenwriting. Students will be given tasks each week based on the content of the class. Every student will develop a logline for an idea they have and from that a synopsis and a breakdown of the beats of the story which will give an understanding into how to develop a screenplay.

Students who complete this course will learn about script formatting and all the different elements of the craft such as character development, master plot building, writing dialogue and choosing your genre. We will examine the different techniques which can be used affectively in breaking down a screenplay into parts such as the Three Act Structure, The Five Act Structure and the eight Sequence Approach.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will • Learn about the craft of screenwriting • Understand how to develop an idea and a character • Develop an understanding of the screenwriting process • Cultivate a writing practice • Use screenwriting software and understand about screenwriting format • Hone film script analysis skills

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught with lectures, discussion, student presentations, and group screenings. It will combine analytical and practical approaches with students being given tasks each week based on the content of the class. Every student will develop a logline for an idea they have and from that a synopsis and a breakdown of the beats of the story.

At the end of the course students will have written a short screenplay ready for production, using all the knowledge they have acquired on the course.

Text and video clip examples will be utilized in the analysis and to give students a better understand of each topic discussed. Student participation and discussion is very much encouraged.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Students will be asked to submit 3 pieces of the duration of the course. The first is the logline which is breakdown of the story idea. Then a treatment of the short script is required. The treatment should be 1-2 pages max and this will be an extended description of the whole story, focusing on the key characters. Finally, in the final class students will present their finished short film screenplay, ready for assessment.

Students will be graded on the following: Class attendance, participation, required documents, final screenplay and engagement.

COURSE OUTLINE

Script formatting - Creation of the core idea - Exploring theme- Researching your material - Choosing your genre - Master plotting – Crafting the logline and synopsis – Three and five Act structure - Writing the individual scene - Character development – Writing dialogue and description – The Hero's Journey – The Eight sequence structure approach - Writing treatments – Rewriting process

COURSE READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS • Viewing of the film Swingers and screenplay by Jon Favreau (script available online), viewing of the film Sideways and Script by Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor (available online), reading of Breaking Bad pilot episode (available online), Screenwriting software CELTX or FINAL DRAFT • A journal notebook

Academic Misconduct
The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act

constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism.

Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Reporting
Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender-based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment may seek resources and help at safe.uoregon.edu. To get help by phone, a student can also call either the UO's 24-hour hotline at 541-346-7244 [SAFE], or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator at 541-346-8136. From the SAFE website, students may also connect to Callisto, a confidential, third-party reporting site that is not a part of the university.

Students experiencing any other form of prohibited discrimination or harassment can find information at respect.uoregon.edu or aaeo.uoregon.edu or contact the non-confidential AAEO office at 541-346-3123 or the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216 for help. As UO policy has different reporting requirements based on the nature of the reported harassment or discrimination, additional information about reporting requirements for discrimination or harassment unrelated to sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment is available at Discrimination & Harassment.

The instructor of this class, as a Student Directed Employee, will direct students who disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to resources that can help and will only report the information shared to the university administration when the student requests that the information be reported (unless someone is in imminent risk of serious harm or a minor). The instructor of this class is required to report all other forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment to the university administration.
Specific details about confidentiality of information and reporting obligations of employees can be found at titleix.uoregon.edu.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
UO employees, including faculty, staff, and GEs, are mandatory reporters of child abuse. This statement is to advise you that your disclosure of information about child abuse to a UO employee may trigger the UO employee's duty to report that information to the designated authorities. Please refer to the following links for detailed information about mandatory reporting: Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.