

Film 150 Screenwriting: Writing Short Content

Monday/Wednesday 1:00-4:30, J Baskin Engr 165

Instructor: Kiki Loveday, kikiloveday@ucsc.edu

Office Hours: by appointment; Coffee Hour: Tuesdays 3-4@Lulu's

TA/Reader: Kara Stone, kstone1@ucsc.edu

Course Description

Whether on the festival circuit or online, the short form remains a key medium to building a sustainable career in the entertainment industries. Short form screenwriting develops voice, hones craft, and showcases talent. This course will approach this calling-card medium through a classical story perspective within a workshop structure. Through assigned readings, in-class exercises, and assignments we will explore the foundations of storytelling – including character, plot-structures and theme. In-class exercises will include table reads as well as improvisational and collaborative writing techniques. In the first half of the course, students will write three short screenplays (3-10 pages). In the second half they will develop and re-write one of them with an eye towards a producible portfolio piece (under 40 pages).

*Students should come to class prepared, on-time (or early), in comfortable clothes, and ready to work.

- Please bring your computer, notebook, and writing utensil to class!
- Yes, you may collaborate!
- Assignments must be completed and turned in on time
- The participation of all students is an essential element to the success of this course: 2 unexcused absences or excessive lateness will result in a no pass
- Please give content warnings before table reads if appropriate
- Students will read for classmates' projects; for final table reads you may cast outside players
- Please, no screens in-class: this is our time for creative focus without distractions (with the exception of in-class writing exercises)

Above all, this course will be a workshop-based exploration of the art of screenwriting in a collaborative and supportive environment that we will build together.

Required Readings

Writing the Short Film, Patricia Cooper, et al. (available online thru McHenry)

Notebook 5%

I recommend using a dedicated physical notebook for this course and writing by hand. Use your notebook for in-class notes and exercises, for collecting thoughts related to story ideas, character and scene-work, as well as for close observation of the world around you.

One Minute Miracle 3% (In-class writing groups)

Write a one-page screenplay in standard format that tells a complete story.

Script Analysis 5%

Read the short screenplay *Pigeon* (Cooper, p 249) and/or a short of your choice. Answer the story analysis question set from class in your notebook and bring these answers to class.

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Screenplay 1: The Truth in Fiction 10%

A short screenplay (2-5 pages) in standard format that *begins* with a potentially dramatic moment from your own life. Remember, you are writing fiction: anything can happen.

Screenplay 2: Adaptation 10%

An original screenplay (3-10 pages) in standard format adapted from a classic myth or fairytale. See Cooper chapter 5.

Screenplay 3: Transformation 10%

An original screenplay (3-10 pages) in standard format in which your protagonist undergoes a change of heart.

Final project 20%

A short screenplay (5-40 pages) that tells a compelling dramatic and visual story!

Participation 37% *includes writers' room, table reads, improvs, and collaboration**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Important dates: **Drop by Monday July 1; Request for "W" by Friday July 12

***Frameline Film Festival** (San Francisco, LGBTQ) June 20-30, 2019

***San Francisco Jewish Film Festival** July 18 – August 4, 2019

Monday	Wednesday
June 24 Creative Community + Writing for the Screen Table reads: <i>Gently Down the Stream</i> (Su Friedrich, 1980, 4p); <i>Crazy Glue</i> (Tatia Rosenthal, 1997, 4p); Sample Script; TBA Reading (rec.): Cooper Intro + Chpt. 1 *Due at end of class: One-Minute Miracle	June 26 Structure + Theme Table reads: Testimony of Nikolai Fomich Kalugin + <i>The Door</i> (Jaunita Wilson, 2008, 6p); TBA Reading due: Cooper Chpt. 2 *Due at end of class: Script Analysis
July 1 **Last day to drop this course Character + Point of View * Table reads: Screenplay 1 draft, WR 1 Reading due: Cooper Chpt. 3 + p 94-95 *Screenplay 1 Draft Due	July 3 Voice + Dialogue * Table reads: Screenplay 1 revised, WR 2 Reading due: Cooper Chpts. 4 and 12 *Screenplay 1 Revision Due
July 8 Transformation * Table reads: Screenplay 2 draft, WR 3	July 10 Sex + Violence * Table reads: Screenplay 2 revised, WR 4

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Reading due: Cooper Chpt. 5 *Screenplay 2 Draft Due	Reading due: Cooper Chpt. 6 *Screenplay 2 Revision Due
July 15 Revision * Table reads: Screenplay 3 draft, WR 4	July 17 The Take Away * Table reads: Screenplay 3 revised, WR 5
Reading due: Cooper Chpt. 7 * Screenplay 3 Draft Due	*Screenplay 3 Revision Due
July 22 *Final project Table Reads	July 24 *Final project Table Reads !!!End of class celebration: <i>The Outsiders @</i> Santa Cruz Boardwalk Movies!!!

FINE PRINT

Screenwriting software: Recommended but not required for this course.

Content Warnings: This course and the students in it may engage with material that may be challenging or disturbing. While there are no restrictions on theme, students are asked to provide a specific content warning on the title page of their work and before in-class table reads when working with content that would warrant an R or NC-17 rating. Any student who does not wish to engage with the material in question may step out of the classroom while the read is in progress. X-rated material is not appropriate for this course. Typical content warnings used in the industry: **AC** Adult Content, **GL** Graphic Language (please include warnings for any *offensive* language), **GV** Violence, **N** Nudity, **RP** Rape (please include warnings for any sexual assault).

Dropping this course: Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves! Dropping results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund). For dates and deadlines here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html> For questions email summer@ucsc.edu.

DRC Accommodations: If you are entitled to accommodations in this course—or have other concerns about out of class commitments—please let me know! The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations for students. If you have questions or concerns about accommodations or any related matter contact the DRC office: Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu.

Artistic Integrity and Copyright: This course is about developing your own creative voice. Believe in your voice—if you are overwhelmed or uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism in an artistic context, come talk with me! Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were your own. It is always better to err on the side of acknowledging other people than to fail to do so! You can read UCSC’s policies here: http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd_integrity.

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Know Your Rights! Title Nine: Equal Opportunity in Education: Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The principal objective of Title IX is to avoid the use of federal money to support sex discrimination in education programs and to provide individual citizens effective protection against those practices. Passed in 1972, Title IX is designed to give STUDENTS the same legal protection from discrimination as employees (who were already protected under the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

The university has a responsibility to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus [resources](#), reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#) and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu. The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the [online reporting option](#), you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.