A313-001: Feature Screenwriting I

INSTRUCTOR: Christopher Chambers  SEMESTER: Fall 2005
TIME: TR 2:00-3:15  PLACE: MO222
OFFICE: BO320  OFFICE HOURS: MTR 12:00-2:00
PHONE: 865-2475  EMAIL: chambers@loyno.edu

TEXTS:
• The Screenwriter’s Bible by David Trottier
• Screenwriting Updated by Linda Aronson
• a feature script (produced, in industry standard format)

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 122 OR 205; ENGL 211

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is the first in a two-part sequence on the craft of feature screenwriting. There will be weekly readings and exercises to develop an understanding of and a proficiency in the elements of screenwriting. Students will be expected to view and critique films outside of class. To learn proper formatting and gain experience in screenwriting, they will work collaboratively to write a script for a short film. Each student will also develop a story and complete as the final project a treatment for an original feature-length screenplay (to be written in screenplay format in Feature Screenwriting II, spring semester). Upon successful completion of the course, students will have a foundation in the craft and formatting of screenwriting necessary to complete an original feature-length screenplay.

GRADES:
Final grades will be based on:
1. weekly exercises  25 
2. short script adaptation  25 
4. short script collaboration  25 
5. feature treatment  25 

GRADING SCALE: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 0-59%=F
ATTENDANCE:
Attendance is required. Each additional absence after the second will lower your final grade by one letter. Four absences will result in an F for the course.

MANUSCRIPTS:
All exercises must be legibly printed in 12 point Courier, double-spaced with one-inch margins, following standard script formatting when applicable. Number and staple pages, with the following in the upper left hand corner of the first page:

<Your Name>
Screenwriting I/Chambers
<assignment>
<due date>

The distribution of manuscripts to the instructor, and to class members is a form of publication and should be regarded as such by both authors and readers. Present your work professionally; proofread for typos, grammatical errors and misspellings.

LATE WORK: Late work will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:
Plagiarism and other academic misconduct will be dealt with strictly according to university policy (University Bulletin, pages 50-51).

CONFERENCES:
In addition to office hours, I will be available for throughout the semester by appointment. Feel free to see me about anything regarding the course and your work in it.

NOTICE: No cell phones or pagers in the classroom.

NOTICE: Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact Disability Services at 865-2990 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. Disability Services are located in the Academic Enrichment Center, Monroe Hall 405.
FADE IN:

T 8/30 introductions

R 9/1 read: Screenwriting Updated, Chapter 1

T 9/6 read: Aronson: SU, Chapter 2
due: aesthetics exercise

R 9/8 read: SU, Chapter 3
due: story idea list

T 9/13 read: SU, Chapter 4
due: twelve-frame narrative

R 9/15 read: SU, Chapter 5
due: revised story idea list

T 9/20 read: SU, Chapter 6
due: pitch

R 9/22 read: The Screenwriter’s Bible, Book I
due: five-page treatment

T 9/27 read: The Screenwriter’s Bible, Book II
due: fifteen-page treatment

R 9/29 read: SU, Chapter 7
due: Group 1 treatments

T 10/4 workshop: Group 1 treatments
due: critiques; Group 2 treatments

R 10/6 workshop: Group 2 treatments
due: critiques; Group 3 treatments

T 10/11 workshop: Group 3 treatments
due: critiques; Group 4 treatments

R 10/13 workshop: Group 4 treatments
due: critiques; Group 5 treatments

T 10/18 FALL BREAK

R 10/20 workshop: Group 5 treatments
due: critiques; Group 6 treatments

T 10/25 workshop: Group 6 treatments
due: critiques; Group 7 treatments

R 10/27 workshop: Group 7 treatments
due: critiques; Group 8 treatments
T 11/1  workshop: Group 8 treatments
due: critiques

R 11/3  read: handout on short films
        in class: short film screening and discussion

T 11/8  read: handout on adaptation
due: short story for adaptation

R 11/10 read: *The Screenwriter's Bible, Book III*

T 11/15 read: “Surface Calm” and “The Red Bow”
        in class: view and discuss *Surface Calm* and *The Red Bow*

R 11/17 workshop: short scripts 1-2
due: critiques

T 11/22 workshop: short scripts 3-4
due: critiques

R 11/24 THANKSGIVING BREAK

T 11/29 workshop: short scripts 5-6
due: critiques

R 12/1  workshop short scripts 7-8
due: critiques

T 12/6  in class: view and discuss *Adaptation* (Acts I & II)

R 12/8  in class: view and discuss *Adaptation* (Act III)
due: revised treatment; screenwriting journal

FADE OUT.