

BROADCAST FILM WRITING EMF 377

Time/Place: Mondays, 10:00am-12:00pm, MC201, Spring 2005

Instructor: Keith W. Strandberg

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Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment

Objectives

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the basic vocabulary and terminology of film and video writing.
2. Recognize the importance of the script in any media.
3. Understand the elements of successful script writing from media to media.
4. Know and be able to write within the various formats for specific media projects.
5. Develop a visual style for different kinds of projects
6. Develop a writing style that has simplicity, clarity and artistry.
7. Understand dramatic elements as they apply to script writing.
8. Write well in any media format.

Policies

1. You are expected to attend all classes.
2. All assignments are due on the date listed, with NO exceptions. All assignments turned in later than class time on the date due will receive an F. Assignments may be turned in early (hard copy only), either sent to instructor's address (see above) or turned into office (get a signature verifying date and time).
3. All scripts and assignments are to be typewritten and properly formatted. No handwritten assignments will be accepted.
4. Each assignment, except the final script, can be rewritten and resubmitted within **one week**. The redo **MUST** be accompanied by the original or the original grade remains in force.
5. The final script is due by 10:00 am on the last announced day of class. Any script not turned in will result in a failure for the final assignment. There will be no incompletes given.

Nature of the Course

This class is designed to give the beginning student an overview of broadcast and film writing. Concepts to be introduced include: various media format, concept development, plot development, writing treatments, scene construction, dialogue, character development, idea generation, outlining, brainstorming, and more.

Required Text

Television and Screen Writing: From Concept to Contract, Fourth Edition
by Richard A. Blum

Paperback: 336 pages ; Dimensions (in inches): 0.87 x 9.18 x 5.98

Publisher: Focal Press; 4th edition (December 2000)

ISBN: 0240804973

Three Ring Binder (large), Three Hole Punch (for handouts)

Screenplays

Each student must read and write a paragraph report on at least three screenplays. The report consists of one paragraph describing the writing, the plotting, the characters, the artistry (or lack thereof) etc. Do **not** tell the story of the film, please. You must also orally present **at least one** of your screenplay reports to the class (3 minutes max), including scenes from film, best dialogue, etc. The last date for screenplay reports is **April 11, 2005**.

Movies to Screen

Students must screen the movies made from the screenplays they read.

Assignments

Students will be expected to complete the following assignments:

Read and report on three (3) screenplays/movies

Write One (1) Properly Formatted PSA

Write One (1) Properly Formatted 30 second TV commercial

Develop, write and present one treatment (min. 8 page) for an original
idea

Write and present one (1) character profile (min. 5 page)

Write first 25 pages of original feature film screenplay in proper format
and in a professional manner

Evaluation

Participation: 10 points (attendance is a factor here)

PSA: 10 points

AD: 10 points

Writer's Treatment: 20 points

Character Profile: 10 points

Feature film screenplay: 40 points

Total: 100 points