Fall 2015

FTA 6220

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University of New Orleans
TEXTS:  Writing Movies, by the Gotham Writers’ Workshop, edited by Alexander Steele
        Writing Short Films by Linda Cowgill

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course has two main objectives: 1) to provide a workshop setting wherein students can develop and write
short screenplays to be produced over the coming semesters in this program and 2) to offer instruction in the
essential principles of screenwriting. Upon leaving this course, students will have four original screenplays
ready to produce, as well as a greater mastery of storytelling craft.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES
After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:
Develop, write, and re-write their own original ideas.
Analyze short film screenplays and movies in terms of essential storytelling principles.
Write effective dialogue and description.

ASSIGNMENTS
You should bring a hard copy of all assignments to class on the day they are due, as well as posting them to
MOODLE on the designated day before class. Further explanations for navigating Moodle will be forthcoming.
DO NOT paste assignments as text into the Discussion Board. Post assignments only as attachments; I strongly
prefer the PDF format! (but “.doc” or “.rtf” formats are also acceptable). Use this format for posting
assignments: <your last name, followed by first initial> <name of assignment>. DO NOT TURN IN
ASSIGNMENTS BY EMAIL!

Please put your name on the document! On occasion, some of your assignments might be reproduced and
discussed in class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
Filmmaking is a collaborative process. Students are expected to bring that spirit of respect and enthusiasm to
the class discussions.

CONDUCT
Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. Phoneplay of any kind is prohibited, including texting and
internet use. Do not have cell phones on your desk, in your lap, or about your person. The penalty for
disregarding this rule is a 2% reduction to your overall grade, per infraction.

DEADLINES
All assignments must be turned in on the date due. An absence does not double as an extension; if you are
unable to attend class, be sure to post your completed assignment to Moodle by the assigned date to avoid
penalty. Do not ask for an extension. The first late assignment will be penalized 15%. All subsequent late
assignments will be penalized 30%.
COMMUNICATION
If you are unable to attend a class meeting, you are responsible for learning what took place in that meeting. There are three ways to do this: 1) Contact a fellow student; 2) Contact the instructor; 3) Check your UNO email account. The instructor will advise students of important developments or changes via email to their UNO accounts (that is, not gmail, yahoo, or other accounts). Mark important dates on your calendar!

ATTENDANCE
Three absences are allowed. The fourth and each following absence will reduce the student’s final grade by three percent.

TARDINESS
Do not be late. Class begins promptly at the top of the hour. The third and each following tardy will reduce the student’s final grade by two percent. After thirty minutes, a tardy student is considered absent.

GRADES
Your grade will be calculated using the following formula:
QP First Draft 10%
QP Revision 15%
The Works 15%
3:2:1 10%
4500 Loglines 10%
4500 Project 10%
4500 Revised 15%
Final Project 15%

Grades will be calculated according to this scale:
A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 0-60

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Academic Judicial Code at:
http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/Judicial/
Academic integrity info at:
http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/Judicial/judicial_pdf/AcademicIntegrity_brochure.pdf
and the Academic Dishonesty policy at:
http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/studentpolicies/policymanual/academic_dishonesty.cfm

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.
FALL 2015 SCHEDULE

The following schedule is subject to change. For the sake of clarity, this schedule only covers the due dates for written assignments. The reading assignments will be covered in class.

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<th>Written assignments due:</th>
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The FINAL PROJECT is due midnight, December 9, 2015