

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

THFM-2610-001: Script and Screen (3 credit hours)

Term: Fall 2013
Time and Time Slot: 4:00-5:15 p.m. T/Th
Room: 3M69 (Manitoba)

Professor: Dr. Jonathan Ball
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Email: j.ball@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours: T/Th 1:00-2:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the reading of screenplays as a story consultant might, and on applying these concepts by the subsequent construction of a screen story. By investigating a number of American/Hollywood screenplays in terms of such aspects as act and sequence, scene construction, character development, thematic focus and artistic metaphor, the course will introduce students to the dramaturgical means by which the screenwriter contributes to a narrative film. Students will then apply this knowledge by producing a screen story treatment. Evaluation is divided between group work and independent work. In groups, students will complete a first assignment constructing portfolios of coverage. Students will also complete a second assignment, constructing a screen story treatment. Students may elect to either complete this second assignment independently, or in a group. All members in the group will be given the same mark.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kaufman, Charlie and Donald Kaufman. Adaptation: The Shooting Script. New York: Newmarket, 2002. Print.

Online Texts:

Groundhog Day by Danny Rubin (dir. Harold Ramis)
http://www.imsdb.com/scripts/Groundhog-Day.html

Marker by Anthony Grieco (dir. John Paizs)
No script available. We will focus on finished film.

Memento by Christopher Nolan with story by Jonathan Nolan (dir. Christopher Nolan)
http://www.imsdb.com/scripts/Memento.html

Shaun of the Dead by Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright (dir. Edgar Wright)
http://www.bleedingcool.com/2013/08/04/the-annotated-illustrated-screenplay-for-shaun-of-the-dead/

Silence of the Lambs by Ted Tally from the novel by Thomas Harris (dir. Jonathan Demme)
http://sfy.ru/?script=silence_of_the_lambs

EVALUATION

Table with 2 columns: Assignment Name and Percentage. 1st Assignment: Portfolio (October 13) 50%. 2nd Assignment: Screen Story/Treatment (November 28) 50%. TOTAL 100%

Late assignments will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0% (F).

Since the effectiveness of this class is dependent on full participation in class discussions and in group work, absences and late arrivals not due to documented medical reasons will lead to deductions in the final mark. Students who do not attend class on a regular basis will be burdens on their groups and so a premium is placed on attendance and punctuality. Additionally, in the arts industries, being late or missing meetings may very well sink your projects and cost you or your employers thousands of dollars.

Unexcused absences from lectures will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lectures will be penalized at a rate of 0.5% per instance. Attendance and punctuality will be recorded at the beginning of every class. After a THIRD late arrival or absence, the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss withdrawal from the course. After a FIFTH unexcused absence the student will be required to meet with the Chair of the department to discuss withdrawal from the course.

Excused absences or late arrivals require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. The instructor will use personal discretion to determine whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence. After FIVE excused absences the student will be required to meet with the instructor to discuss whether it is realistic to continue in the course.

Students with chronic medical conditions that will require extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

In addition, all students must attend group meetings outside of class. Students who are reported to have missed group meetings outside class will have 2% deducted from their final mark per meeting missed.

Students may elect to complete the second assignment independently, rather than in groups. The first assignment must be completed in groups.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

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|----|------------|-----|------|----|------------|-----|-----|
| A+ | 90 – 100% | GPA | 4.5 | C+ | 65 – 69.9% | GPA | 2.5 |
| A | 85 – 89.9% | GPA | 4.25 | C | 60 – 64.9% | GPA | 2.0 |
| A- | 80 – 84.9% | GPA | 4.0 | D | 50 – 59.9% | GPA | 1.0 |
| B+ | 75 – 79.9% | GPA | 3.5 | F | below 50% | GPA | 0 |
| B | 70 – 74.9% | GPA | 3.0 | | | | |

Work not submitted will be graded as 0% (F).

DEFINITIONS OF GRADING DESCRIPTIONS

A+ Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill AND great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Superior. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill OR great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A- Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Satisfactory. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Satisfactory. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

F Failing. Unsatisfactory knowledge of concepts and/or techniques, which does not satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course. Late or missed assignments will be given a failing grade.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change – this is meant as a guideline only. The second half of the course will feature less films and a more intensive focus on the creative process.

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|------------------------|--|
| September 5 | Introduction |
| September 10-12 | <i>Silence of the Lambs</i> |
| September 17-19 | <i>Groundhog Day</i> |
| September 24-26 | <i>Marker</i> |
| October 1-3 | <i>Shaun of the Dead</i> |
| October 8 | 1st Assignment due |
| October 8-22 | <i>Memento</i> |
| October 24 | Final date to withdraw without academic penalty |
| October 24-November 26 | <i>Adaptation</i> |
| November 26 | Last class |
| November 28 | 2nd Assignment due (no class) |

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available

on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Access Card/Building Use Policy AND Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September and end in November, 2013 (Fall 2013 Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.