

THFM 2612-050 (3 credit hours)

SCRIPT AND SMALL SCREEN

Term: Winter 2019
Time: Mondays 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Location: Room 2D12 Duckworth Centre

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Ball
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Office Hours: M 6:00– 7:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate the narrative techniques employed by two core television genres, the comedy series and the drama serial, alongside a number of examples of television shows. Our investigation will focus on scene structure, episode structure, act breaks and seasonal arcs as well as the similarities and differences between the two formats. Students will learn to develop story concepts and write script sequences for a “spec” script, analyze existing shows, and develop mock proposals for a series.

REQUIRED VIEWING

True Detective, Season 1 (available on DVD, iTunes, etc.)
Bojack Horseman, Season 5 (available on Netflix)

Examples from these show, and other shows, will be shown in-class.
However, students are responsible for viewing these entire seasons outside of class.

GRADING

Table with 2 columns: Assignment Name and Percentage. Rows include Story Outline for a Spec Script (30%), Scripted Scene for a Spec Script (30%), Pitch Bible for a TV series (40%), and TOTAL (100%).

Late assignments will NOT be accepted and will be given a grade of 0%, except in the case of documented emergencies.

Assignments may be completed in groups or individually. Groups may be no larger than 4 students. Students working in groups will receive the same grade. Group submissions must contain a cover page that is signed by all members of the group.

CONVERSION SCALE

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

Conversion table with 6 columns: Letter Grade, Percentage Range, GPA, Letter Grade, Percentage Range, GPA. Rows include A+ (90-100%, 4.5), A (85-89.9%, 4.25), A- (80-84.9%, 4.0), B+ (75-79.9%, 3.5), B (70-74.9%, 3.0), C+ (65-69.9%, 2.5), C (60-64.9%, 2.0), D (50-59.9%, 1.0), and F (below 50%, 0).

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

**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**

Jan. 7 – Feb. 4:	Fundamentals of TV Writing, Focus on <i>True Detective</i>
Feb. 11 – Mar. 4:	Focus on <i>Bojack Horseman</i>
Mar. 11 – Apr. 1:	TV Series Development

**Important Dates:**

Feb. 11:	Story Outline Due
Feb. 17 – 23	Reading Week / No Classes
Mar. 15:	Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline
Mar. 18:	Scripted Scene Due
Apr. 15:	Pitch Bible Due

### **"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 remaining dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

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

### **TAFSA**

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! Please join TAFSA to find out more at its regular meetings, every second Monday, 12:30-1:20 pm, Room 0T10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

### **HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. Please visit <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your 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. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am -5:30 pm weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week **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://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *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.

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 sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals, (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect).

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin January 7, 2019 and end April 5, 2019 (2018-19 Winter term).

### **STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people cooperate 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.