

DePaul University
School of Cinema and Interactive Media

DC 507 801: Thesis II

TUE, 5:45-9:00 PM in CDM 924

Professor Brad Riddell: briddell@cin.depaul.edu, 312-362-5212

Office Hours: T 3:30-5, W 11:30-1 in CDM 521 and by appointment

Description:

This is the second of a three-course sequence in which students revise and polish the first draft of their thesis screenplay. This script is to serve as the culminating piece in their MFA writing portfolio.

Objectives:

- Close examination of the rewrite process
- Developing tools to successfully sift through and implement notes
- Delivering professional, character and deadline-driven script revisions
- Continued mastery of cinematic writing style and narrative technique
- Exposure to a professional writing pace
- Fostering and maintaining the environment a professional writer's room
- Refining and advancing the practices of giving and receiving criticism
- Consistent delivery of outstanding creative work every single week

Outcomes:

- A complete revision plan
- A complete revision outline
- Two complete script revisions

Schedule:

WEEK 1: Updates on scripts, discussion of teaching, discussion on monologues.

WEEK 2: Review of script notes, monologue exercise.

WEEK 3: Group A rewrite plan, rewritten first act.

WEEK 4: Group B rewrite plan, rewritten first act.

WEEK 5: Group A rewritten to midpoint.

WEEK 6: Group B rewritten to midpoint.

WEEK 7: Group A End Act Two

WEEK 8: Group B End Act Two

WEEK 9: Group A Act Three

WEEK 10: Group B Act Three

WEEK 11: Polish

Finished, revised thesis scripts due to committees by MARCH 20 at 6 PM.

Procedures:

Classes may include lectures and screenings, but will always feature a workshop session in which all students will receive feedback. It is *vital* important that all students submit their work on time, and that all students pre-read the material thoroughly before class to make detailed notes. As we have a great deal to accomplish, we will need to be efficient and effective in our discussions.

Work must be submitted on D2L by noon on Sundays. If it is not delivered on time, it will not be critiqued and you will receive no credit for it.

Software:

Final Draft is the industry standard, and provides functions that will be useful in this class. You should own it and be using it by now. That said, I prefer all work be delivered in PDF format all the time.

Grading:

You will receive a weekly score for your writing work, the end total of which will amount to 40% of your final grade.

Participation is crucial – in class and online. It accounts for 20% of your grade. Leave no doubt in anyone's mind that you have read and deeply considered the work at hand each week. Be engaged and involved in every discussion.

Your first revision will serve as the midterm, with the full and completely polished screenplay serving as the final. They represent 20% each.

A = 92	C+ = 78	F = 0
A- = 90	C = 72	
B+ = 88	C- = 70	
B = 82	D+ = 68	
B- = 80	D = 60	These values are minimums for each grade.

Attendance:

Tardiness and absences are counterproductive to your goal of becoming a great writer and my goal of being a great teacher. Contact me ASAP if you will be late or absent. Unapproved absences and tardies forfeit an entire letter grade.

Decorum:

We must respect each other, our collaboration and the work at hand. Be truthful but sensitive when giving notes. Be prepared to solve problems instead of just pointing them out. Personal attacks and disruptive actions will not be tolerated.

Laptops:

Professional writers do not sit in meetings staring at a screen. They talk to each other and their employers. If your computer screen and the mind attached to it drift away from class and I so much as suspect you of online activities not related to the task at hand, you will lose laptop privileges for the entire semester.

Integrity:

Plagiarism will get you fired and sued professionally, and it will earn you an immediate F in this course. Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the *Student Handbook* or by visiting <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>.

Academic Policies:

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

TTY: (773)325.7296

Online Course Evaluations:

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

Alterations:

The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus at any time. Students will be apprised of any and all changes with clear instructions should they occur.