

DC 302 Advanced Screenwriting II  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2016-17  
Thursday 1:30PM – 4:45PM

Instructor: Lee Madsen  
lmadsen3@cdm.depaul.edu  
Office: CDM Building, 4th Floor, Office 434  
Office Hours: Monday 5:45 - 9:15 & Thursday 4:45-5:45

### Summary of the Course

This course focuses on the writing of the second and third acts of feature length screenplays. Students finish and begin revising the first draft of the script started in DC 301. Students will analyze the conventions of plot, structure, theme, and character-driven narratives in an effort to develop their unique voice on the page. Conjunctively, students will participate in workshops to foster their professional communication skills.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Extend their knowledge of screenwriting conventions and script analysis through assigned readings and in-class workshops.
- Identify the link between form and content in narrative structure.
- Apply techniques to enhance audience identification for their story.
- Construct the second and third acts of the feature length screenplay they began in DC 301.

Textbooks: None

Additional assigned readings provided by the Instructor

### Prerequisites

DC301 or Instructor Approval

### Grading

Class attendance and participation 10%

Group Discussion Forum Feedback 10%

Feature Length Step Outline 10%

Page Submissions 70%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

## **Week by Week Outline**

Week 1: March 30<sup>st</sup>

Introduction of Course.

The Sequence Approach.

Week 2: April 6<sup>th</sup>

Sequence 1 Lecture

Step Outline Workshop

Week 3: April 13<sup>th</sup>

Sequence 2 Lecture

Step Outline Workshop.

Week 4: April 20<sup>st</sup>

Sequence 3 Lecture

Assignment: Pages 30-40

D2L Discussion Board Peer Feedback Act 1 Due May 4th

Week 5: April 27<sup>th</sup>

Due pages: 30-40

Sequence 4 Lecture

Halfway Home.

Assignment: Pages 40-50

Week 6: May 4<sup>th</sup>

Due pages: 40-50

Sequence 5 Lecture  
Assignment: Pages 60-70  
D2L Discussion Board Peer Feedback Act 2(A) Due May 18th

Week 7: May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Due pages: 60-70  
Sequence 6 Lecture  
Assignment: Pages Pages 70-80

Week 8: May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Due pages: 70-80  
Sequence 7 Lecture  
Workshop.  
Assignment: Pages 80-90  
D2L Discussion Board Peer Feedback Act 2(B) Due June 1st

Week 9: May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Due pages: 80-90  
Sequence 8 Lecture  
Workshop.  
Assignment: Pages 90-100

Week 10: June 1<sup>nd</sup>  
Due: First Draft  
Workshop.  
Assignment: Rewrite.  
Final Draft due next week.

Week 11: June 8<sup>th</sup>  
FINAL DRAFT DUE by 11:59pm

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the

course.

## D2L

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to: <https://login.depaul.edu/cas/login?service=https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/orgtools/CAS/Default.aspx> and enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc.

## D2L Group Feedback

Feedback is an essential part of the writing process. To facilitate this, you have been placed in a group with three other students. You will submit outline assignments and pages to your group for evaluation via the discussion forum on D2L. In addition, you will read the pages submitted by your group members and provide a minimum of three notes per script. Each group member will create a discussion thread for the week's submission (Example: John Smith's First Act). Group members will provide notes in the body of this thread.

## In-Class Workshops

Every student will have the first ten pages of their screenplay workshopped in class. I will create a discussion thread on D2L for the scripts that were workshopped, which will allow students to continue discussion that time did not allow for in class. The in-class workshops will run to the end of the quarter.

## Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

## 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](#).

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

## 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 in-completes can be found at: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Class Discussion: Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in a non-disruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never

allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

CONTENT CHANGES: This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes