

# SCWR 402 Writing the Feature II

---

**When:** Tuesday · 5:45pm – 9:00pm  
**Where:** Synchronous Online Learning

**Instructor:** Matt Quinn · [mquinn@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:mquinn@cdm.depaul.edu)  
**Office hours:** Monday · 11:00am – 2:00pm & Thursday · 11:00am – 2:00pm

## Summary of Course

This course focuses on completing the first draft of a feature length screenplay. Students will bring their vetted concepts to life on the page by focusing on a foundation of character, theme, structure, and plot. The lectures, in-class workshops, and weekly page deadlines are designed to culminate in a spec script that showcases the writer's voice and command of screenwriting conventions.

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to write at a professional pace
- write visceral and visual scenes that demonstrate a clear and unique voice
- create three-dimensional characters with unique voices and clear motivations
- apply established narrative techniques to scenes, sequences, and acts
- evaluate the work of their peers and formulate helpful feedback

## Prerequisite

SCWR 402 Writing the Feature I

## Synchronous Online Learning

This course will be delivered using synchronous online learning. You will log in using a Zoom Video Conferencing link provided by the instructor for weekly lectures and assignment discussions. These meetings are held within the class period time frame of Tuesday 5:45pm – 9:00pm Central Time.

## D2L

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to:

<https://login.depaul.edu/ldap/login?service=https%3a%2f%2fd2l.depaul.edu%2fd2l%2fcustom%2fcas> 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.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. An absence, which is defined as not participating in the weekly Zoom meetings, constitutes a reduction in your overall grade.

## Textbooks

Recommended: Screenwriting: The Sequence Approach by Paul Gulino, ISBN 13: 9780826415684 (Recommended)

## Grading

Attendance	10%
Workshop	20%
Feature Submission I	30%
Feature Submission II	40%

*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.*

## Course Outline

### Week 1 – March 30<sup>th</sup>

Lecture: Course Overview / Writing the Feature  
*Assignments: Finalize Outline*

### Week 2 – April 6<sup>th</sup>

Workshop: Group Breakout Session  
 Lecture: First Half Objectives  
*Assignments: Feature Submission I (Pages 1-10)*

### Week 3 – April 13<sup>th</sup>

Workshop: Group 1  
 Lecture: Tracking Subplots  
*Assignments: Feature Submission I (Pages 10-20)*

### Week 4 – April 20<sup>th</sup>

Workshop: Group 2  
 Lecture: Scene Writing  
*Assignments: Feature Submission I (Pages 20-30)*

**Week 5 – April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop: Group 3

Lecture: Managing Exposition / Dialogue

*Assignments: Feature Submission I (Pages 30-40)*

**Week 6 – May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop: Group 4

Lecture: Second Half Objectives

***Due: Feature Submission I***

*Assignments: Feature Submission II (Pages 40-50), Sign-up for Meeting*

**Week 7 – May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop: Group Breakout Session – Feature Submission I Feedback

*Assignments: Feature Submission II (Pages 50-60)*

**Week 8 – May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop: Group Breakout Session – Members 1 & 2

Lecture: Breaking into Act Three

*Assignments: Feature Submission II (Pages 60-70)*

**Week 9 – May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Workshop: Group Breakout Session – Members 3 & 4

Lecture: Climax & Resolution

*Assignments: Feature Submission II (Pages 70-80)*

**Week 10 – June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Workshop: Group Breakout Session – Member 5

Lecture: Rewrite Plan

*Assignments: Feature Submission II (Pages 80-90)*

**Week 11 – June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Finals Week - No Class

***Feature Submission II Due Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>***

**Assignments****Workshop (20% of Final Grade)**

Feedback is an essential part of the writing process. To facilitate this, every student will have two Zoom video conference workshop sessions (each session is worth 10 points). The initial workshop should focus on an excerpt from the first half of your feature length screenplay and the following workshop should focus on an excerpt from the second half of your feature length screenplay. You must submit the sequence you would like to cover as a

PDF to your assigned Group Discussion Forum before your assigned workshop session. See course outline for workshop dates.

### **Feature Submission I (40% of Final Grade)**

You must submit the first half of your feature length screenplay to the corresponding D2L Submission link by 5:45pm on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. No late assignments will be accepted.

A few things to keep in mind:

- You must include a cover page
- Your submission must be at least 40 pages
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

### **Feature Submission II (40% of Final Grade)**

You are expected to submit the entire first draft of your feature length screenplay to the corresponding D2L Submission link by 11:59pm on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. No late assignments will be accepted.

A few things to keep in mind:

- You must include a cover page
- Your submission must be at least 90 pages
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count - Proofread your work, proofread it again and then proofread it one more time just to be sure.
- Standard screenwriting formatting is required.
- Don't wait until the last minute. It takes time to develop a solid narrative - You won't be able to do it in one night
- Please make sure the script is saved as a PDF

### **Zoom Policies**

The DePaul [Code of Student Responsibility](#) applies to online behavior as well as in-person or classroom behavior. The following are policies for the course meetings with Zoom:

- General – Sign in with your preferred first name and last name. If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone with internet access, call into class. This is not optimal; try to locate an internet-enabled device to use for this course. Please stay engaged in class activities. Close any apps on your device that are not relevant and turn off notifications.
- Video – Turn on your video when possible. It is helpful to be able to see each other, just as in an in-person class. You may elect to turn off your video if you have limited

internet bandwidth, no webcam or if you're unable to find an environment without a lot of visual distractions.

- Audio – Mute your microphone when you are not talking. Be in a quiet place when possible and turn off any music, videos, etc. in the background.

### 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.

### Changes to the 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. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

## 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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

## Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

## Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

## Students with Disabilities

DePaul Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677
- Email: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.