

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

School of Cinematic Arts | Spring 2019

DC 300 Story Development – Section 601 | THURS 1:30 – 4:45PM | Daley 209

Instructor: Kat O'Brien | Email: kobrie55@depaul.edu

Office Hours: THURS 10:30AM-1:30PM, Daley 200B

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help the emerging writer focus their creativity into a viable original project for a feature film. The lectures, workshops, and assignments are designed to enable the student to identify and develop material to which they have a strong personal connection. Emphasis is placed on extensive research of the subject matter, creating memorable characters, and crafting a strong dramatic through-line. Students will write a vetted step outline for a feature length film that should be completed in DC 301.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Create multiple story concepts and analyze feature-potential viability of those concepts
- Apply character development tools to create dimensional characters with feature-length arcs
- Develop a feature-writing process from Logline to Step Outline
- Analyze creative work, providing critical analysis for peers' work and to interpret and apply feedback from classmates
- Deliver assignments on deadline

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Multiple assignments leading to the development of a Detailed Step Outline for a Feature Film

PREREQUISITES

PREREQUISITE(S): DC 101 or DC 201

REQUIRED READING

Provided by Instructor

COURSE MANAGEMENT

This course is housed and managed on **D2L**. There students will find the syllabus, course outline, announcements, reading and writing assignments, discussion boards, and additional materials. Log in to D2L enter using your campus connect logon and password. Once you are logged in, click on the course number link and you will find our home page and links to the course content.

In Week 1, the class will be divided into four groups: Group A, Group B, Group C, Group D. Each class session will involve breaking off into smaller groups to workshop each student's story. Writing assignments are due by **11:59PM, MONDAY PRIOR*** *unless otherwise noted*. Upload to that week's Submissions forum and your group's Discussion List forum on D2L.

***NOTE: You are responsible for reading each of your group's weekly writing assignments before every class session, unless otherwise noted.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: April 4

LECTURE: Course Intro. Overview: Concept to Step Outline

WORKSHOP: Ideation & Story Concepts

ASSIGNMENT ONE: 5 possible concepts for a feature film, ready to pitch *due in class today*

Week Two: April 11

LECTURE & WORKSHOP: Logline and Quick Pitch

ASSIGNMENT TWO: Logline and Quick Pitch for preferred concept *due in class today*

Week Three: April 18 ONLINE CLASS

READING: Lajos Egri's *The Art of Dramatic Writing*, Ch. 3: Character

WORKSHOP: The Egri Character Bio. Character Assessment (who is your main char & why?)

ASSIGNMENT THREE: Character Bio and why; feedback to your group *due online today*

Week Four: April 25

LECTURE: What is this story *about*?

WORKSHOP: Story Bibles: Revised Pitch, Character Bios, World, Theme, Look Books

ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Story Bible Development *due in class next week Thurs May 2*

Week Five: May 2

LECTURE: Story Structure

WORKSHOP: Story Mapping: Character Status Quo and 5 Point Structure

ASSIGNMENT FIVE: 5-Point Outline *due Mon May 6 at 11:59PM*

Week Six: May 9

LECTURE & WORKSHOP: Synopsis and Top 5 Moments

ASSIGNMENT SIX: One Page Synopsis (Top 5 Moments) *due Mon May 13 at 11:59PM*

Week Seven: May 16

LECTURE & WORKSHOP: The Sequence Outline

ASSIGNMENT SEVEN: Sequence Outline *due Mon May 20 at 11:59PM*

Week Eight: May 23

WORKSHOP: Beat Sheets and Step Outlines

ASSIGNMENT EIGHT: Beat Sheet or Step Outline *due Mon May 27 at 11:59PM*

Week Nine: May 30

WORKSHOP: Exploring Details via Treatments, Scriptments, Discovery Pages

ASSIGNMENT NINE: Rough Draft - Detailed Step Outline *due Mon June 3 at 11:59PM*

Week Ten: June 6

WORKSHOP: Detailed Step Outline

ASSIGNMENT TEN: Revised - Detailed Step Outline for Finals Week *Thurs June 13 at 1:30PM*

FINAL: REVISED FINAL DETAILED STEP OUTLINE due JUNE 13 at 1:30 PM

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Attendance and participation is mandatory. An absence, which is defined as not showing up to class or arriving more than 10 minutes late to class, constitutes a reduction in your overall grade.

Assignments

There are ten weekly assignments to be completed as a product of our ten workshops. Your tenth assignment is your final assignment (there is no exam).

With the exception of Assignment One (Concepts), you must post your assignment to Submissions and Discussions, and also bring a hard copy / digital copy to class.

Active participation is requirement in this class. **You are responsible for reading each of your group's weekly writing assignments before every class session. Come prepared with feedback:**

- Observations/Reflections: What is happening in the story and why?
- Interpretations: Does the story resonate with you? Why? Why not?
- What suggestions you have to resolve those issues and make the story more resonant?

Grading

Late work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0. Your grade in this class will be based on active participation, timely completion of the workshop assignments, and effective incorporation of feedback. Attendance (in class) and Participation (feedback) is factored into your Workshop/Assignment grade each week.

Grade Breakdown: TOTAL 100 Points / 100%

Assignments 1-10: 10 points / 10%

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.

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.

Decorum and 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.

Creative Subject Matter

As this is a creative writing class, controversial subject matter may make its way into the conversation. Students have every right to express themselves artistically in their writing and address challenging issues so long as the work does not glorify hate of any kind. If you become uncomfortable with a conversation for personal reasons, you may be excused from the remainder of that class without penalty. Obvious inclusion of individuals from the class will not be tolerated in submitted material.

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 students will be notified via email.

Online Course Evaluations

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don't miss this opportunity to provide feedback!

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval. College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows: Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Excused Absence

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

Incomplete

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. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form. By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor. An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

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: Student Center, LPC, Suite #370 Phone number: (773) 325-1677