

DePaul University
School of Cinematic Arts

DC390/490: Topics in Screenwriting: ACTING FOR SCREENWRITERS

Winter 2022, Wednesday 1:30 – 4:45PM

14 East Jackson, Room 213

ZOOM Link for January 5th and 12th:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/94414382051?pwd=VVNlaVBuSFFFZmdlbjdGQzByaHVWdz09>

Password: 150714

Professor Anna Hozian: ahozian@depaul.edu

203-461-1230

Office Hours: ONLINE Mondays & Thursdays 8:30AM to 11:30AM only by appointment – please sign up on BlueStar. *If these times do not work for you, please reach out to me and we will try to find a time that does.*

Course Description

Advanced study in screenwriting focusing on a specific genre each quarter such as: Science Fiction, Film Noir, Comedy, Action-Adventure, Nonfiction, etc. May be repeated for credit.

Course Outcomes

Evaluate a produced script in terms of the elements that are needed by an actor and write or rework scripts and/or scenes with these elements now in place.

Prerequisites

SCWR101 or SCWR100

Course Objectives:

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

- Define dramatic writing elements needed by actors in a script
- Analyze how these elements are used by actors to bring life to their work
- Develop and apply tools to use these elements in their own creative character work
- Evaluate the work of their peers and formulate helpful feedback

Course Management

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. To log on, go to: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home> and enter using your campus connect username and password. Once you are logged on, click on the course number link and you will find links to the syllabus, materials, weekly assignments, etc.

Grading Policy

Analysis of Scripts & Class Participation:	40 points
Analytical Paper:	20 points
Personal Scene:	20 points
Final:	20 points

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, F is substantially unsatisfactory.

Course Outline

FOR THE FIRST FIVE WEEKS THERE WILL BE A READING ASSIGNMENT, which we will examine as a class the following week. Your midterm assignment will be assigned at the end of Week Five, which will entail analyzing a script from an actor's perspective.

FOR THE SECOND FIVE WEEKS, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT YOUR PERSONAL WORK. You will bring in one dramatic scene (three to six pages), assign classmates as actors and guide them in putting the scene on its feet, using the elements learned from this class. We will discuss them as a class after the run-through.

Week One, Wed. 01/05

Class Intros, Course Overview, Introduction of the Meisner Approach to Acting
Reading Assignment: *Minari*

Week Two, Wed. 01/12

In-Class Discussion & Analysis: *Minari*
Reading Assignment: *A Promising Young Woman*

Week Three, Wed. 01/19

In-Class Discussion & Analysis: *A Promising Young Woman*
Reading Assignment: *Judas & The Black Messiah*

Week Four, Wed. 01/26

In-Class Discussion & Analysis: *Judas & The Black Messiah*
Reading Assignment: *The Sound of Metal*

Week Five, Wed. 02/02

In-Class Discussion & Analysis: *The Sound of Metal*
Midterm DUE by Monday, February 7th at NOON.

Week Six, Wed. 02/09

Performance & Analysis of Student Scenes (Group 1)

Week Seven, Wed. 02/16

Performance & Analysis of Student Scenes (Group 2)

Week Eight, Wed. 02/23

Performance & Analysis of Student Scenes (Group 3)

Week Nine, Wed. 03/02

Performance & Analysis of Student Scenes (Group 4)

Week Ten, Wed. 03/09

Performance & Analysis of Student Scenes (Group 5)

FINAL due Wed., 03/16 at 1PM

SCWR390: Written Overview of Personal Speculative Script with Close Analysis on one scene.

SCWR490 Students: Written Overview of Personal Speculative Script with Close Analysis on three scenes.

In-Class Discussions/Workshops

By enrolling in this course, you agree to share your ideas and writings with the professor and other students in the class. You must acquire express written consent from any writer in the class should you wish to share his/her work with someone who is not enrolled in this course. Feedback is an essential part of the writing process. 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.

Creative Subject Matter

As this is a creative writing course, controversial subject matter may enter into the conversation. Students have the right to express themselves artistically in their writing and address challenging issues. If you become uncomfortable with a conversation for personal reasons, you may be excused for the remainder of that class without penalty. Inclusion of individuals from the class, or direct personal attacks on members of the class will not be tolerated in course material. If you feel you are being individually targeted by material written or discussed in class, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

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.

Laptops/Cell Phones

If your computer 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. Phones must be silenced and stowed.

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.

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>

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>

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>

Excused Absences

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 <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx> 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.

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.

Students with Disabilities

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 – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory 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.

Current Covid-19 Regulations and Protocols

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus; (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms; (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions; (4) stay home if sick; (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing; (6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training; and (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel

Advisory. By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

For continued updated information on DePaul's Covid-19 Protocols:

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/faqs/Pages/classes-academics-faculty.aspx>