

DePaul University
School of Cinematic Arts

SCWR 501/SCWR551 Thesis

Fall 2019

Tuesday 5:45 – 9:00PM, Daley 211

Professor Anna Hozian: ahozian@depaul.edu

203-461-1230

Office Hours: (CDM 463) Tuesdays 1:30pm to 4:30pm and Thursdays 10:00am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 3:00pm.

Description

Students will complete a draft of their MFA thesis project feature length film screenplay or original TV pilot script which they began developing in DC 497 (TV) or DC 498 (Feature). The thesis project is to serve as the culminating piece in the student's MFA screenwriting portfolio and must be approved by a thesis committee in order for a student to graduate.

Objectives

- Students will evaluate peer work and formulate constructive criticism to improve such work.
- Students will synthesize peer feedback on their own work and develop a plan for revisions.
- Students will use the plan to create to a subsequent draft of their work.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to maintain the WORD, creative environment of a professional writer's room.
- Students will complete all work on a deadline.

Outcomes

- A ninety-page+ feature length original screenplay OR an original half-hour or one-hour TV pilot script
- TV writers will also create a series pitch deck

Required Reading

Provided by Instructor via D2L.

Course Management

This course is housed and managed on **D2L**. There students will find announcements, reading and writing assignments, and additional materials. Each week's recorded sessions (available shortly after 9PM each Thursday) will be available here:

<https://col.cdm.depaul.edu>.

All written assignments must be typed with pages numbered. Title page:

Your Name

Course Number

Date

Working Title of Thesis

Save your writing assignments as PDFs and with this file name (see example):

Assignment 1 Chayefsky

Assignment 2 Ephron

Page Submissions are due **SATURDAYS by 5PM**. For each submission, you **must post to the appropriate submissions folder AND to the appropriate Discussion Forum**. **Each group will have their work workshopped three times throughout the quarter. But the ENTIRE CLASS will workshop EVERYONE'S WORK!**

FEATURE WRITERS: 30 pages for each workshop session.

TV WRITERS: One-half for your Pilot Episode for each of the first two sessions and your Pitch Bible for the 3rd.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – September 17th, 2019

Course intro, syllabus review, and brief in-class discussion of where each student is in reference to script development and the upcoming quarter's progression.

Assignment: GROUP A's first submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 2 – September 24th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP A's Work

Assignment: GROUP B's first submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 3 – October 1st, 2019

Workshop: GROUP B's Work

Assignment: GROUP C's first submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 4 – October 8th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP C's Work

Assignment: GROUP A's second submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 5 – October 15th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP A's Work

Assignment: GROUP B's second submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 6 – October 22nd, 2019

Workshop: GROUP B's Work

Assignment: GROUP C's second submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 7 – October 29th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP C's Work

Assignment: GROUP A's third submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 8 – November 5th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP A's Work

Assignment: GROUP B's third submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 9 – November 12th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP B's Work

Assignment: GROUP C's third submissions up by Saturday at 5PM.

EVERYONE MUST READ ALL SUBMISSIONS AND BE READY TO DISCUSS ON TUESDAY IN CLASS.

Week 10 – November 19th, 2019

Workshop: GROUP C's Work

Assignment: Your First Completed Draft (and Pitch Bible for TV Writers) turned in for your FINAL on November 26th at 6PM. It must be submitted to ALL THREE MEMBERS of your THESIS COMMITTEE at this time as well.

First Submission: 25 Points

Second Submission: 25 Points

Third Submission: 25 Points

Feedback During Workshops: 25 Points

TOTAL POINTS: 100 points

Grading:

Late work will not be accepted.

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.

Work that contains grammatical errors, misspellings, or generally poor and unclear writing will rarely if ever achieve a grade of **A** or **B**.

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