

SCWR 2525 – WRITING THE COMEDY TV SERIES EPISODE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Practical experience in writing in various comic forms with emphasis on pre-existing television situation comedy.

COURSE GOAL: Students will develop and write an episode of a pre-existing TV comedy show.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will learn the principles of character and the role character plays in half-hour comedy for television
- Students will expand their knowledge of scene writing and construction specifically for the half-hour television comedy
- Students will watch an episode of an existing show and execute a story analysis
- Students will read two scripts from preexisting episodes (one multi-cam and one single cam) and execute script analyses
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of classic screenplay structure as it applies to half-hour comedy for television
- Students will execute dramatic storytelling using conflict and plot complications
- Students will demonstrate skills in visual writing and cinematic dialogue
- Students will execute a beat sheet and outline for their episode.
- Students will utilize standard screenplay format in narrative style for half-hour television
- Students will demonstrate the collaborative process, functioning as writing teams and as a 'Writers' Room'
- Students will refine the practice of giving and receiving notes from the professor and classmates, as well as incorporating them into their work
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in working in various positions in the Writers' Room
- Students will gain experience 'Pitching' jokes, stories and other concepts in the Writers' Room
- Students will value a diverse range of stories that explore ethics and humanism

COURSE DELIVERABLES:

* Each section of this course will work collectively on a single television show. The choice of show for each section is at the discretion of the professor.

Students will:

- Develop a premise for an existing half-hour television series
- Draft a story analysis of an episode and script analysis of a script.
- Draft a logline, beat sheet and outline for an existing half-hour comedy series
- Write a first draft of a teleplay in proper format and length for an existing half-hour series
- Revise the teleplay based on notes from the Writers' Room

Signature Project: Students will draft and revise a half-hour comedy spec screenplay based on an existing show. Industry standard for a half-hour spec script is 30 - 45 pages.

###