

## **SCWR 2526 – WRITING THE DRAMA TV SERIES EPISODE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Practical experience in writing pre-existing one-hour episodic television drama

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

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will learn the principles of character and the role character plays in one-hour drama for television
- Students will expand their knowledge of scene writing and construction specifically for the one-hour television drama
- Students will watch an episode of an existing show and execute a story analysis
- Students will read two scripts from preexisting episodes (episodic and serialized) and execute script analyses
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of classic screenplay structure as it applies to one-hour drama 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 an episode.
- Students will utilize standard screenplay format in narrative style for one-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' 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 one-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 one-hour drama series
- Write a first draft of a teleplay in proper format and length for an existing one-hour series
- Revise the teleplay based on notes from the Writers' Room

**Signature Project:** Students will draft a one-hour drama **episode** screenplay based on a **current** existing show. Industry standard for a one-hour spec script is 50 - 60 pages.

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