

SCWR 3320: FEATURE SCREENPLAY: WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Practical experience in writing a feature-length screenplay, with a focus on story development, structure, character, and foundational skills in logline creation and pitching.

COURSE GOAL: Building on the work developed in SCWR 2220, students will turn one of their treatments into a completed rough first draft of a feature screenplay, while crafting a compelling logline and deliver a short pitch and deliver a short pitch based on one of their 2220 treatments and write a complete first draft of a feature screenplay.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will deepen and develop the main characters (protagonist, principal antagonist, and 'stakes' characters).
- Students will understand and utilize the principles of character and ethics in dramatic storytelling.
- Students will develop their knowledge of screenplay structure across acts, sequences, and scenes.
- Students will practice visual storytelling techniques.
- Students will develop their skills in scene construction, including action, atmosphere, and dialogue.
- Students will learn to craft effective loglines for feature-length projects.
- Students will be introduced to pitching and begin developing confidence in presenting their story ideas.
- Students will use standard screenplay format.
- Students will give and receive notes constructively and incorporate feedback into their work.
- Students will engage with a diverse range of stories and perspectives.

COURSE DELIVERABLES:

Students will:

- Revise and expand their treatment into a full outline, incorporating feedback and refining structure, deepening and developing character arcs, and theme before beginning their screenplay draft.
- Create a working logline and practice delivering a short pitch of their screenplay.
- Submit weekly development notes for their peers' class projects.

- **Signature Project:**

A completed rough draft of a feature-length screenplay (85-110 pages) in proper format, accompanied by a logline and brief verbal pitch. A passing grade on this draft is required to advance to SCWR 321.

Before starting the first draft, students must revise and expand their treatment into a full outline, incorporating feedback and refining structure, character arcs, and theme.

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