University of St. Thomas Drama Department

Screenwriting -- DRAMA 3329-A, Fall, 2016
Tues/Thur 9:35 AM-10:50 AM, Jones Theatre

Instructor: Professor Sam Havens

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Office Hours: TT 8:00-9:30AM & 11:00-12:00 Noon.

Text: Writing Screenplays That Sell, by Michael Hauge

A course in the theories and techniques of writing screenplays. Screenwriting will be contrasted with playwriting and novel writing. An emphasis will be placed on formatting, structure, characterization, dialogue and visual storytelling. Students will take tests, study scenes, view videos and complete writing projects.

Your grade will be based on several factors:
Attendance
Participation in Class (Speak up)
Pop quizzes, homework, and in-class projects
Portfolio
(MLDRA students will complete extra scene projects)
Written Tests on text and handout materials
Final

Note: Late work will be penalized without physician’s excuse.

Note: Attend classes or lose points.

Special note: Crashed computers, fouled disks, cyber monkey demons will not serve as excuses. The campus is loaded with computers and printers. I will grade only printed pages, not disks, jump drives or emails. I strongly recommend you **back up everything**. In other words, I do not want to see that ashen expression on your face signifying lost work.
Calendar

Drama 3329 Screenwriting, Fall 2016
Tues/Thurs, 9:35 AM-10:50 AM

Aug. 23--Sept. 1
Overview course. Cover formatting, glossary, scene function and shape, props, sounds, images, and setting. On the page, on the stage.
**Sept. 1:** Test chapters one and six, scene clips, notes, web.

Sep. 6--Sept. 20
**Due Sept. 20:** Test chapters three and four, scene clips, notes, web.

Sep. 22 --Oct. 6 (No class October 11)
Story and structure. Acts, scenes, sequences, gaps, turns, journey. The "A" plot, the "B" plot.
**Due Oct. 6:** Test on chapters two and five, clips, notes, web.

Oct. 13--Oct. 25
Deconstruct Casablanca
View movie and read scenes in class. Study it for writing technique.
**Oct. 25:** Test on Casablanca.

Nov. 1--Nov. 10
Deconstruct Moonstruck
View movie and read scenes in class. Study it for writing technique.
**Nov. 10:** Test on Moonstruck.

Nov. 15-Dec. 1 (No class Nov. 24)
Read selections from portfolio aloud in class for critique & revision ideas.

**Dec 8, 8:00 AM:** Final exam.
Covering all chapters, handouts, class notes, video clips, web, etc.
Submit Portfolios & journals.