

Loyola University Chicago
COMM 202 Sec. 201 Story For TV & Film: Fall 2018
Corboy Law Center: Room 525
Wednesdays 415pm-645pm

Instructor: Terrance T. Brown

E-mail: tbrown@luc.edu

Please allow 24 hours for a response to your question. Any emails received over a weekend or holiday will be answered the next weekday. Please use your @luc.edu account only when sending email inquiries. Office hours are still being determined. Until they are finalized, please make an appointment by email should you need to speak with the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to the process of creating stories for TV & Film. Through exercises and analysis of structure and storytelling fundamentals, students will develop a working sense of how to deconstruct and analyze the elements of TV & Film stories for theoretical examination as well as how to grow an idea for practical application in a screenplay. Exercises cover all aspects of screenwriting, from writing action and dialogue to scene construction and sequencing, culminating in the development of a pitch document and lookbook for an original idea.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Students will be required to read and analyze an assigned feature screenplay each week for discussion. Students will also be required to view and analyze one film per week. The assigned film list will be prompted by the instructor and generated through class discussion. All prompts and examples required for homework assignments will be provided (digital and/or hardcopy).

REQUIRED SOFTWARE:

- Adobe Acrobat: You will submit all assignments as PDFs. No Word docs or other files
- FREE screenplay formatting software (sign up using your @luc.edu email)
- Final Draft Trial (18 weeks free): <http://bit.ly/trialfinaldraft>
- Adobe Story Free: <http://bit.ly/freeadobestory>
- Whichever you choose, submit every assignment as a PDF. Note that early in the semester, discovery assignments (synopses, loglines, etc.) won't require script formatting. These will be submitted in 12 pt. Courier, single-spaced.

GRADING & EVALUATION:

100-95 A 94-90 A- 89-87 B+
86-83 B 82-80 B- 79-77 C+
76-74 C 73-70 C- 69-67 D+
66-65 D Below 65 F

Final Grade Formula:

Weekly Script Analysis:	20%	Short Film Script:	25%
Weekly Screening Analysis:	20%	Pitch Document & Lookbook:	25%
In-class Participation:	10%		

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: This course will have a heavy screenplay focus. However, this course is not considered writing intensive. The focus on scripts fosters the ability to apply all elements of TV & Film storytelling in a practical and tangible manner.

Each week students will read a full script and write a 1-page analysis of the script. To start each class a student or two will be called upon at random to lead the class in discussion of that week's assigned script.

All assignments must be typed in 12 pt. Courier, single spaced, and emailed in a PDF by 5 pm the Monday before class (48 hrs.) to tbrown@luc.edu. Type your full name, assignment description (e.g. "logline") and due date at the top of the first page of your assignment. **** NOTE: Please always start your PDF filename with your LAST NAME. ****

DEADLINES: Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings and writing projects on time. Late work not only holds you back, but holds the class back because of the collaborative nature of the course. Late work will be automatically penalized five points for each day past the original due date. Moreover, assignments will not be accepted more than five calendar days past due.

ATTENDANCE: This class meets once a week. Because of the sheer amount of material covered in each session, attendance is critical. Consequently, no absence will be excused unless it is because of the death of a loved one, or due to serious personal illness or injury. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by 2.5 points. More than two excused absences will do the same. Note that any in-class work missed because of absence cannot be made up. Do not email the instructors asking for assignment details. It's your responsibility to obtain notes from classmates.

COMPUTER/PRINTER USE: Please be aware the occasional software bugs, viruses, human error and/or hardware failure can result in damaged, corrupted or deleted files. Therefore, it is your responsibility to routinely back up project files throughout your writing process and to deliver readable, uncorrupted files in the required PDF format. Computer failure is no excuse for lost work or late assignments.

The instructor reserves the right to revise or change anything in this syllabus.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Cheating includes:

- Obtaining, distributing or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the instructor
- Providing information to another student during an examination
- Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination
- Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor

- Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted
- Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom
- Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or deadline extensions
- Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process.

All student work must be wholly original. Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc
- Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material.
- Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit.
- Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper.

The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. Moreover, a student may not submit the same paper or other work from another class. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard.

Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the assigning an "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate area head.

COMM 202 SCHEDULE: Fall 2018

(Subject to change. Updates to be posted.)

**NOTE: Email homework by 5PM on due date listed (48 hr. advance)*

<u>Class 1</u>	List: Wall of shame
August 29	Script: Insecure
	Lecture/Workshop: Loglines & Pitching - Heart of the idea
	Homework: 3 Original Loglines
	Exercise: Elevator Pitch

Due Monday 8/27

Class 2
September 5 List: All-time Favorite
Script: The Chi
Lecture/Workshop: Character/Structure Theory - Film - Hour Drama - Sitcom
Homework: 1-page synopsis for existing film
Due Tuesday 9/4

Class 3
September 12 List: Niche Genre
Script: Get Out
Lecture/Workshop: What is a scene? Building sequences
Homework: Cause & Effect outline for an existing pilot
Due Monday 9/10

Class 4
September 19 List: Memorable Dialogue (1)
Script: Atlanta
Lecture/Workshop: Establishing genre/Contract with the audience
Exercise: Pitch a story that is a mashup of two genres
Homework: Choose a genre & watch the first 10 minutes of 5 entries in that genre. List the common elements
Due Monday 9/17

Class 5
September 26 List: Memorable Dialogue (2)
Script: How To Get Away With Murder
Lecture/Workshop: Dialogue Part I
Homework: Watch a film/pilot you've never seen; transcribe the best exchange of dialogue. What makes it good?
Due Monday 9/24

Class 6
October 3 List: 12%
Script: Bridesmaids
Lecture/Workshop: Dialogue Part II
Exercise: Rashomon writing
Homework: Watch a film/pilot you've never seen; transcribe the worst exchange of dialogue. Improve the dialogue.
Due Monday 10/1

Class 7
October 10 List: Animation
Script: Moonlight
Lecture/Workshop: Formatting/Action
Homework: Controlling action exercise
Due Monday 10/8

Class 8
October 17 List: Ensemble
Script: One Mississippi
Lecture/Workshop: Animation & Non-Traditional Storytelling & Short Form
Homework: 3 Original loglines for a pilot/film
Due Monday 10/15

Class 9
October 24 List: About Hollywood
Script: Everybody Hates Chris

Lecture/Workshop: Writers Room
Homework: (1) Read an amateur script & give notes (2) List of 10 questions about the business of screenwriting
Due Monday 10/22

Class 10
October 31
List: From Short Form
Script: Broad City
Lecture/Workshop: The business of screenwriting Q&A
Homework: Write original short film (8 pages) based on 1 of 3 original loglines
Due Monday 10/29

Class 11
November 7
List: Good Recommendation
Script: The Big Sick
Lecture/Workshop: Workshop short film script (8 pages)
Homework: Develop Pitch Doc & Lookbook based on short film
Due Monday 11/5

Class 12
November 14
List: Childhood Favorite
Script: Juno
Lecture/Workshop: Workshop short film script (8 pages)
Homework: Develop Pitch Doc & Lookbook based on short film
Due Monday 11/12

*****THANKSGIVING BREAK - No Class 11/21*****

Class 13
November 28
Lecture/Workshop: Present Pitch Doc & Lookbook
Homework: Develop Pitch Doc & Lookbook (based on original short film)
Due Monday 11/26

Class 14
December 5
Last class. There is no final exam for COMM 202: Story For TV & Film
Lecture/Workshop: Present Pitch Doc & Lookbook