

Courses in Screenwriting and Film Studies

2020-21

REQUIRED COURSES – OFFERED EVERY SUMMER

FILM 505: NARRATIVE THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR SCREENWRITERS (4)

Department

Study and practice of the fundamentals of narrative, the art of visual storytelling, and the elements of dramatic writing for the screen. Narrative strategies for establishing structure, pacing, setting, characterization, and dialogue will be provided through model films and writing exercises. Writers will complete an original script. **Prerequisite for other screenwriting courses.**

FILM 507: CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR – SCREENWRITING (4)

Department

Workshop course in which class members further develop skills in the writing and analysis of narrative screenplays. Designed for those with prior experience in screenwriting. **Must be repeated for credit but may not be taken more than once per term.** Prerequisite: FILM 505 or permission.

FILM 510: FILM ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH (4)

Department

Study of methods of film analysis and research. Course covers the major approaches to film analysis, the tools used in film research, and the problems and methods of film historiography. Required course.

FILM 595: ADVANCED SCREENWRITING TUTORIAL (4)

Department

Highly concentrated, intensive course **to be taken during a student's final summer in the program.** Students will spend six weeks doing a rewrite of a script written in a previous Hollins course. Not open to students in the M.A. program.

FILM 599: THESIS (4, 4)

For the M.A., an extended critical or research essay written in consultation with the thesis advisor. For the M.F.A., an original screenplay (or screenplays) written in consultation with thesis advisor.

ELECTIVE COURSES DIFFER EACH YEAR BUT AT LEAST ONE TELEVISION WRITING COURSE WILL ALWAYS BE INCLUDED. SEE FOLLOWING FOR RECENT EXAMPLES.

FILM 530: FILM STYLES AND GENRES – THE SILENT VOICE (4)

Department

For the first 30 years of film history, cinema was purely a visual art. This course introduces film students to the major figures of the silent era and analyzes how those filmmakers perfected the art of storytelling solely through images. Film artists such as D.W. Griffith, F.W. Murnau, Eric Von Stroheim, Charlie Chaplin, and Lon Chaney will be considered.

FILM 530: FILM STYLES AND GENRES – BLACKNESS ON WHITE SCREENS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN IDENTITY FROM WHITE SUPREMACY TO BLACK SELF (4)

Department

The class will trace the history of African American identity in film from its early racist beginnings with *Birth of a Nation* through the Civil Rights era, to the modern era of black filmmakers Spike Lee, John Singleton and Jordan Peele. The course will explore in detail how white control of black identity on the big screen helped codify racial stereotypes about black people in America that has long lasting ramifications to this day.

FILM 542: TOPICS IN FILM HISTORY – POLITICAL SCREENWRITING (4)

Department

This course offers an exploration of the legacy of blacklisted writers of the late 1940's and how they inspired filmmakers such as Hal Ashby and many others. Works to be considered include *Being There* and *Chinatown* - the ultimate screenplays of the 70's.

FILM 550.1: SPECIAL TOPICS: WRITING FOR KIDS TV (4)

Department

The kids TV market is booming. Round out your portfolio with a professional sample for children or young adult programming. This advanced class will cover writing for both animated and live action shows. It will be run like a writer's room, with students pitching, writing, addressing notes and punching up scripts just as it's done on a kids TV show.

FILM 550.2: SPECIAL TOPICS: WRITING THE ONE HOUR TELEVISION PILOT (4)

Department

This workshop course takes students step-by-step through writing their own pilot script for an original one-hour television dramatic series. The course will go from premise lines, "bible," Necessary research, outline/beat sheet, to writing a first draft pilot script. Using models of such popular series as "The Sopranos," "Game of Thrones," "Breaking Bad," "House of Cards," and others, the class will also explore the new "golden age" of TV drama.

FILM 581: VIDEO PRODUCTION (4)

Department

The study and practice of moving picture art through the medium of video. Students learn video production as a technical skill and an art, with practice in the making of narratives, experimental videos, and documentaries. All equipment provided. Lab fee: \$200. May be repeated for credit.