Course Title: An Introduction to Screenwriting: You Oughta Be (Writing) in Pictures  
Course Code: EGL 126  
Instructor: Adam Tobin, adtobin@stanford.edu

Course Summary:  
This course will begin with two weeks of lecture-based discussion on concept, character, and structure of writing for screen, followed by two weeks on scene writing. There will be key exercises to help you move forward, as well as optional exercises each week for students wanting more. The class will then shift into a pure workshop model, with students having assigned weeks to bring in 7-20 pages of screenplay or TV script material to be workshoped by the class. Students taking the class NGR are not required to bring in material for workshop.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation. Students must submit a script for workshop but can do shorter pages (5, for example) and must attend their own workshop.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - 25% class participation, 25% written feedback, 50% workshop material. Students must submit 8-20 pages, attend their own workshop, and must attend seven out of 10 sessions for an A.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Weekly Outline:
Week 1 – Introduction to Screenwriting: concept and loglines  
Week 2 – Workshop loglines and trailers; Introduction to Screenplay Structure  
Week 3 – Introduction to Scene Writing and in-class scene writing exercise  
Week 4 – Workshop scene exercises (student material 1-4 due!)  
Week 5 – Workshop students #1-4 material  
Week 6 – Workshop students #5-8 material  
Week 7 – Workshop students #9-12 material  
Week 8 – Workshop students #13-16 material  
Week 9 – Workshop students #17-21 material  
Week 10 – Rewriting; the entertainment industry
Week 1

*Introduction to Screenwriting: Concept and Loglines*
Introductions to the course and to each other. Discuss *North by Northwest*; discuss concept and loglines. Do logline exercise in class.

*Key Assignments:* Logline

*Optional Exercises:* Film to view: TOY STORY. Goals list; “My friend is so ___” exercise; read a screenplay; brainstorm scenes across your movie

Week 2

*Workshop loglines and Character into Screenplay Structure*
Workshop loglines. Discuss protagonist and film structure: 3, acts, 6 key points, 8 sequences

*Key Assignments:* Six key plot points

*Optional Exercises:* Film to view: THELMA AND LOUISE. Complication exercise; Relationship Progression; first sequence scene list for a popular film; 4 page synopsis

Week 3

*Introduction to Scene Writing and in class scene writing exercise*
Screenplay format; how to write a screenplay scene; in-class writing exercises: nondialogue (prep/aftermath, 3 entrances); and dialogue

Handout: Formatting guide and scene layout examples

*Key Assignment:* Write one 3-5 page scene for workshop.

**STUDENTS 1-4 script material due next week!** This should be 7-20 pages of your own original script material to be read out and discussed in class. This can be TV, film, or short script material. It is usually best to start at the beginning of a piece so readers are oriented to it.

Week 4

*Workshop scene exercises*
(Students 1-4, workshop material due to be handed out)

Workshop scene exercises

*Assignments:* Workshop students 1-4 next week; *students 5-8 scripts due next week.*

Week 5

*Students 1-4 material workshop*
(Students 5-8 material handed out)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-6:40</td>
<td>Instructor Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:40-7:15</td>
<td>Workshop student 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15-7:50</td>
<td>Workshop student 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:50-8:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:35</td>
<td>Workshop student 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35-9:15</td>
<td>Workshop student 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Assignments:* Workshop students 5-8 next week. *Students 9-12 scripts due next week.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Week 6

Students 5-8 material workshop  
(*Students 9-12 material handed out*)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro  
6:40-7:15 Workshop student 5  
7:15-7:50 Workshop student 6  
7:50-8:00 break  
8:00-8:35 Workshop student 7  
8:35-9:15 Workshop student 8  

Assignments: Workshop students 9-12 material next week. *Scripts 13-16 due next week.*

Week 7

Students 9-12 material workshop  
(*Students 13-16 workshop material handed out*)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro  
6:40-7:15 Workshop student 9  
7:15-7:50 Workshop student 10  
7:50-8:00 break  
8:00-8:35 Workshop student 11  
8:35-9:15 Workshop student 12  

Assignments: Workshop slots 13-16 next week. *Scripts 17-21 due next week.*

Week 8

Students 13-16 material workshop  
(*Students 17-21 second workshop material handed out*)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro  
6:40-7:15 Workshop student 13  
7:15-7:50 Workshop student 14  
7:50-8:00 break  
8:00-8:35 Workshop student 15  
8:35-9:15 Workshop student 16  

Assignments: Workshop slots 17-21.

Week 9

Students 17-21 material workshop
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro  
6:40-7:10 Workshop student 17  
7:10-7:40 Workshop student 18  
7:40-8:10 Workshop student 19  
8:10-8:20 break  
8:20-8:50 Workshop student 20  
8:50-9:20 Workshop student 21  

Week 10

Lecture on rewriting and on the entertainment industry
Lecture on finishing a script and rewrites, and on the entertainment industry

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