Course Title: TV Writer for a Day: Crafting a Series Pilot
Course Code: WSP 321
Instructor: Adam Tobin

Course Summary:

TV Writer for a Day (or two days, in this case) seeks to introduce you to the form and content of writing a television pilot. We'll start with a more general discussion of the forms series can take, move on to the “franchise” of a series, its premise, characters, and story, with exercises that will develop your own specific TV idea.

These class sessions will be recorded. Live participation is required in order for students to receive the full benefit of the course. Class recordings are not intended to be a replacement or substitute for class attendance.

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
Due to its short format, this workshop may not be taken for Credit or a Letter Grade. If you require proof of participation, your instructor will have Certificates of Attendance available. Please see the instructor at the end of the class. The Continuing Studies office does not issue these certificates after the workshop.

Tentative Schedule:

Day 1:

9:30-10:40am: Introductions; types of TV pilot (Comedy/drama, half-hour/hour, singlecam/multicam, network/basic cable/pay cable/streaming); premise in television series and best examples in action

Exercise 1: Your core conflict

10:40-10:50 break

10:50-12:00: Review exercise 1; loglines

Exercise 2: Homework: Logline

Day 2:

9:30-10:40: Review loglines; TV structure and “breaking the story.”

10:40-10:50 break

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continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
10:50-12:00: Break a story together. Put the “A story” through its paces to a climactic resolution.

*Exercise 3: Develop a list of 7-10 scenes for your A story*