Course Title: Build a World, Seduce the World: The Screenplay Submission
Course Code: EGL 84 W
Instructor: Xandra Castleton
Dates: June 20- August 26 (10 weeks)

Course Summary:
EGL 84 W is a screenwriting course focused on the opening ten to twelve pages of a screenplay as a way to learn and practice effective screenwriting techniques and establish the fundamentals of a compelling (and marketable) screenplay. Each week we’ll use scripts, instructional readings, interviews, discussions, and writing exercises to study and develop one or more key elements of every screenplay, starting with the main character and the dramatic premise and ending with the theme.

An engaged and generous workshop is a key component of this process, supporting each writer in making strong creative choices that are true to his or her unique vision. This course is structured to accommodate writers of all levels and backgrounds and to equip each writer with the tools to launch, complete and submit a successful screenplay. Weekly video “office hours” are open to all students, along with an individual video or phone conference at the end of the course.

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 provided. You will not be graded, but you may turn in assignments and participate in workshops as both writer and reader.
- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  - Regular participation and turning in of workshop material are required.
- **Letter Grade (A, B, C,D, No Pass)**
  - Final written work (50%), peer feedback (30%) and participation in online discussions (20%) will determine the grade.

**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.
Your Writing and Workshop:
Throughout this course, you will be responding to the writing and ideas of your peers. Some of that writing will be in the form of exercises, and much of it will be in the form of first drafts so an open, kind, and engaged approach is required.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: June 20, Introduction to the Screenplay: What Animal Is This?
Introductions, Read, Watch & Discuss The Big Lebowski
Read: “Screenwriter’s Bible” pgs. 3-28; “Script Lab” article on the first ten pages of The Big Lebowski
Write: Introductions

Week 2: June 27, Character & Conflict
Logline Workshop
Read: “Story” Chapter Two; “Screenwriter’s Bible” pgs. 29-52 and 57-78; “Creating Unforgettable Characters,” Chapters Two and Three; three blogs about writing loglines
Write: Character backstories, a logline for your screenplay.
Peer feedback, “Relationship lines” exercise. Optional additional character bios.

Week 3: July 4, The Status Quo and the Catalyst: What’s the Change?
“Story” Chapter Eight; Two Articles on The First Ten Pages
Read, Watch & Discuss North by Northwest
Write: Character introductions exercise.

Week 4: July 11, Writing Scenes and Sequences: Story Beats
“Story” Chapters Ten & Twelve; “Screenwriter’s Bible” pgs. 93-108; “Creating Unforgettable Characters” Chapter Seven
Write: Dialogue and Subtext Exercise.

Week 5: July 18, Genre and Tone: What Animal Is This?
“Screenwriter’s Bible” pgs. 52-57; “Story” Chapter Four
Write: Genre exercise.

Week 6: July 25, Theme: From the Specific to the Universal
Readings on the theme from all three textbooks. Paul Schrader and Michael Arndt interviews.
Write: A scene that touches on the theme. Group #1: Write pages 1-10/12 for next week.
Week 7: August 1, Ten-Page Workshop Group #1
Read: “Story,” Chapter 3 (Structure and Setting)
Read, Watch & Discuss The King’s Speech
Write: Peer feedback. Group #2: Write pages 1-10/12 for next week.

Week 8: August 8, Ten-Page Workshop Group #2
Read: Pacing article. Screenwriter interview.
Write: Peer feedback. Group #3: Write pages 1-10/12 for next week.

Week 9: August 15, Ten-Page Workshop Group #3
Read, Watch & Discuss Thelma and Louise, Screenwriter interview.
How to write a synopsis.
Write: Peer feedback. Story Synopsis.

Week 10: August 22, The Structured Process: Next Steps
Screenwriter interviews, Rewriting Article, Breaking in Article.
Optional one-on-one conferences.
Write: Rewrite loglines.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
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