Course Title: An Introduction to Screenwriting: You Oughta Be (Writing) in Pictures
Course Code: EGL 126
Instructor: Adam Tobin

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 beginning 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 8-20 pages of screenplay or TV script material to be workshopped by the class. Second workshops will be for rewrites or outlines going forward.

*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.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - 34% class participation and written feedback, 33% first workshop material, 33% final workshop.

*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.

Tentative Weekly Outline:
Week 1 - Introduction to Screenwriting: concept, character 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 1-5 due!)
Week 5 - Workshop 1 students #1-5 material
Week 6 - Workshop 1 students #6-10 material
Week 7 - Workshop 1 students #11-15 material
Week 8 - Workshop 1 students #16-21 material
Week 9 - Small group (Workshop 2) students 1-15
Week 10 - Small group (Workshop 2) students 16-21; rewriting; the entertainment industry

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Week 1

Introduction to Screenwriting: Concept, Character and Loglines
Introductions to the course and to each other. Sign up for workshop slots. Discuss North by Northwest; concept, character behavior and goals, and loglines. Do “misbehavior” exercise and logline exercise in class.
Handout: Writers on writing; Active verbs list
Key Assignments: Concept exercise; Logline; Protagonist profile
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 Introduction to Screenplay Structure
Workshop loglines, protagonist profiles. Discuss film structure: 3, acts, 6 key points, 8 sequences; main tension, main conflict, main relationship, antagonist
Key Assignments: Create rough outline document and begin your first sequence scene list
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 (tough spots)
Handout: Formatting guide and scene layout examples
Assignments: Write one of the following: movie trailer exercise; climactic scene; Bechdel test exercise; convincing exercise. STUDENTS 1-5 material due next week!

Week 4

Workshop scene exercises
(Students 1-5, workshop material due to be handed out)
Workshop scene exercises (trailers, climax, Bechdel, convincing)
Assignments: Workshop students 1-5 next week; students 6-10 due to be handed out next week.

Week 5

Students 1-5 material workshop
(Students 6-10 material handed out)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro
6:40-7:10 Workshop student 1
7:10-7:40 Workshop student 2
7:40-8:10 Workshop student 3
8:10-8:20 break

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8:20-8:50 Workshop student 4
8:50-9:20 Workshop student 5
Assignments: Workshop students 6-10 next week. Students 11-15 material due to be handed out next week. On your own: outline seq 2.

Week 6

Students 6-10 material workshop
(Students 11-15 material handed out)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro
6:40-7:10 Workshop student 6
7:10-7:40 Workshop student 7
7:40-8:10 Workshop student 8
8:10-8:20 break
8:20-8:50 Workshop student 9
8:50-9:20 Workshop student 10
Assignments: Workshop students 11-15 material next week. Outline seqs 3 & 4.

Week 7

Students 11-15 material workshop
(Students 16-20 workshop material handed out)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro
6:40-7:10 Workshop student 11
7:10-7:40 Workshop student 12
7:40-8:10 Workshop student 13
8:10-8:20 break
8:20-8:50 Workshop student 14
8:50-9:20 Workshop student 15

Week 8

Students 16-20 material workshop
(Students 1-15 second workshop material handed out)
6:30-6:40 Instructor Intro
6:40-7:05 Workshop student 16
7:05-7:30 Workshop student 17
7:30-7:55 Workshop student 18
7:55-8:05 break
8:05-8:30 Workshop student 19
8:30-8:55 Workshop student 20
8:55-9:20 Workshop student 21
Assignments: Small group workshop - students 1-15 next week. 16-20 handed out next week. Outline seqs 7 & 8.
Week 9
Small group workshop - students 1-15 share work
(Students 16-20 second workshop material handed out) We will split up into small “writing groups” of roughly 5, each group including three students from 1-15 and one student from 16-20. Students from 1-15 will have their outline material workshopped by their group this week. (Students from 16-20 will have their material workshopped next week.) Assignments: Second workshop slots 16-20 next week.

Week 10
Small group workshop students 16-20; lecture on rewriting and on the entertainment industry
6:30-7:30 Workshops slot 16-20
7:30-7:45 break
7:45-9:20 Lecture on finishing a script and rewrites; the entertainment industry