



LA Mission College

Course: MM 600 Story Script and Screen

Thursdays: 6:00-9:00 Instructor: Deborah Diehl

Office Hours: 5:30-6:00

online forms: <http://spindizzy.weebly.com>

Class schedule: <http://moodle.lamission.edu>

1. Go to> "IAM- Institute of Arts and Multimedia"
2. Select "Multimedia 600- D. Diehl"
3. Log in with your name and password (which Moodle will prompt you with)

Email: deblid@sbcglobal.net

Please keep emails to emergency information and issues that cannot be addressed at the next class. If you do email, **please put "Mission 600" in the subject line.**

Adds and Drops: Instructors are not to drop students from classes, therefore **it is your responsibility to drop yourself** from the class roster. If you need to drop the class for any personal reason, please drop it through admissions, otherwise **you will be given a grade and possibly have a "Fail" on your transcript.**

Required Texts: YOU MUST buy the Story Script and Screen Class Packet from the Bookstore. It contains important documents and information on assignments for the class. You must have them by the third class meeting.

Recommended Texts (Optional):

Screenwriting:

Writing Short Films: Structure and Content for Screenwriters

by Linda Cowgill, Lone Eagle Publishing Co., LA, 1997

Save the Cat: The Last Book on Screenwriting That You Will Ever Need

by Blake Snyder

Michael Wiese Productions, LA, 2005

Creating Unforgettable Characters

by Linda Seger, Henry Holt and Company, NY , 1990

General Writing:

The Artists Way by Julia Cameron, Putnam Books

Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg, Bantam Press

Last day to DROP classes **WITHOUT a "W"** (online) **September 9, 2012**

Last day to DROP class **WITH a "W"** (online) **November 18, 2012**

Required Materials:

- **3-ring notebook, pens and pencils**

***Access to a computer and with a writing program** such as Celtx or Word or to a computer with the capability to use free web-based script-writing programs. Note: Script programs are not mandatory, but will make your life SO much easier.

Attendance: Each assignment is designed to lay a foundation for the next, so attendance is mandatory and is worth 15% of final grade. I keep track of participation and late arrivals/early departures. If classes are missed, it is the student's responsibility to get notes or information from other students in the class. If you know you will have a problem getting to please let me know in advance.

Course Description: Story, Script and Screen is a fundamental course on creative writing and scripting basics. The course structure will include lectures; short and feature film screenings; writing assignments; in-class group discussion and critique. Multimedia 600 is a basic level narrative screen writing course, which includes weekly writing assignments aimed at the production of a polished, correctly formatted **seven to ten page narrative script** for a short film/video work. The class is an excellent forerunner to the advanced multimedia classes 630/640,

Students who pursue a Multimedia degree, certificate, or skills award will:

1. Examine & describe media art through interpretation of individual art works in global context
2. Analyze and articulate the visual and conceptual components of a digital art work
3. Comprehend and incorporate terminology appropriate to the disciplines of Art and Multimedia
4. Apply principles of fine art to the process of creating Multimedia projects
5. Integrate fine art techniques and computer applications in the creation of digital work
6. Create work across a broad spectrum of digital media utilizing the appropriate tools, which are determined through problem solving
7. Synthesize knowledge and skills acquired in different classes in creation of complex projects
8. Place one's digital projects within a contemporary context

Multimedia 600 Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate proper screenplay formatting guidelines.
2. Create a complete short script with a clear structure and development.
3. Analyze and discuss structural elements of short film narratives.
4. Employ strategies for balancing action and dialogue lines.
5. Create multidimensional characters through action and dialogue.

Student Responsibilities: Students are responsible to print out all written materials to be delivered to the instructor. I do not accept projects in digital form.

Courtesy Guidelines for In-class and email communication: This writing class requires group interaction, discussion and sometimes collaboration. Generally, our classes are fun and lively because our students treat one another with respect. Raised voices, name-calling or threats will not be tolerated. If you have a problem with another student or the instructor, please approach that person calmly and directly with that person with ideas for positive solutions and compromise. If the problem cannot be solved in that way, there are other resources on campus, such as Student Services staff, who may be able to help you.

Please use appropriate language, greetings and salutations in email correspondence.

No text-messaging and phone calls during class.

Helping You to Succeed: I want each of you to get as much as you can out of the class. If you have a disability or any issues that you feel I should know about, or that will require accommodations, please contact me and I'll do my best to help.

Evaluation and Grades:

Students will complete writing assignments including two short scenes, graded exercises, a script outline and a final project. The Final Project will be a completed script of approximately 6 to 10 pages.

Attendance and Participation	15%
Participation	5%
Assignments	
Formatting A Dream Scene	15%
Stolen Dialogue	5%
2 Page Scene for Critique	5%
Entrapment Scene	20%
Outline for Final Script	10%
Completed Script	25%
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	100%

Late assignment or projects will drop one letter grade for each week late.

This syllabus is subject to change. I will keep you posted as to alterations.

	Class	Assignment	In-class Exercises and Activities	Topics	
1	Thurs 8/30		•Screening : How they Got There, Red B., Funeral, •Exercise: pix & BraDin •Story collage	Intoduction to class Short Films---Why? Power of images	
2	Thurs 9/6		•Screening : Frank's Book •Celtx	•Intro to Formatting •Telling Your Stories	
3	Thurs 9/13	Class Formatting	•Exercise: idea development: image fire Exercise: Write Dream	•More Formatting.. Finding Ideas	
4	Thurs 9/20	DUE Assign #1: Dream Scene	•Exercise: character Bio • Screening: Life Lessons	•Characterization Dissecting character motivations in Life Lessons	15 pts
5	Thurs 9/27		•Scene Critique: Picasso Café •Writing a quick scene	•Writing The Scene Anonymous Scene Trades *writing Action lines	
6	Thurs 10/4	DUE Class Exercise: Bring in a 2 Page scene for peer critique	•Screening: Various samples •Exercise: Reading Stolen	•Dialogue Exercise: Rewrite Dialogue	5 pts
7	Thurs 10/11	DUE Class Exercise: Bring in Stolen Dialog	•Screening: MARA of Rome, •Exercise: Pick Three	*Introduction to 3 Act Structure	5 pts
8	Thurs 10/18		Critique of Acts, Beats and character in Hotel san fernando	•What is a Beat?	

9	Thurs 10/25	DUE Assign #2 Entrapment Scene	• SCREEN: feature Good Will Hunting. Long film starts promptly at 9:05.	• Critique of Feature for: Character, Structure, Dialogue, and Scene	20 pts
10	Thurs 11/1		Vein of Gold Exercise	Finding your favorite themes and genres.	
11	Thurs 11/8		Five Deep Breaths	Outlining Kill Your "Babies."	
12	Thurs 11/15	DUE #4: Outlines Due		INDIVIDUAL APPTS!: Each meeting will take 10 mins	10 pts
13	11/22	Thanksgiving	No Class		
14	11/29	DUE #7 Completed Scripts!	Writing Workshop Screenings: Coffee and Cigarettes, Wait Here	VOG image collection In class read-throughs	25 pts
15	Thurs 12/6		•Screening	•Troubleshooting •So what do you do now? Industry, business of writing and pep talk •Cliché and subtext	
16	Fri 12/13	Last Class: SHOW Up for meetings!		INDIVIDUAL Appointments-final feedback	
				Attendance Participation	15 pts 5 pts
				Total	100 pts

For Projects and Grading Rubrics, please refer to the Class Packet.