

Ann Eskridge  
Scriptwriting 304  
Winter 2004  
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## Scriptwriting

Objective of the class: To learn, analyze, and demonstrate scriptwriting technique through developing realistic character, plot, and dialogue.

At the beginning of class, students will be given the name of a character that they will have to develop through readings, exercises, and class projects and workshops. Students will develop a plot around this character and finally a scene.

Midterm: From the exercises previously given, students will be given a set of questions about their character and write a treatment based around their character.

Final: Workshop an original scene.

Requirements for class:

1. Textbook: Aspects of the Screenplay, techniques of Screenwriting
2. Read:
  - 2 books on scriptwriting or film making—make oral and written report
  - analyze (4) four scripts---make oral and written report
  - analyze (4) four movies—make oral and written reportHalf will be due before the Midterm, and half will be due before the final.
3. 10 points will be taken off for each class missed.
4. Assignments will be turned in on time- 10 points off for late assignments

### Week One

#### Lecture

Introduction to class: Vocabulary

Review Syllabus

Handouts

#### In Class Assignment

*Pick Character name for entire class*

#### Homework

Read Intro and **Chapter One** of Textbook: Half the class Do exercise 1. on page 22.  
Half the class bring in a character in a movie that they like (scene)

## Week Two

### Lecture

Discussion of Act 1 in a movie. The first 15-30 minutes what happens? Somebody wants something.

### In Class Assignment

*Somebody wants something. What does your character want? Write a one line synopsis*

### Homework

Read **Chapter Two**. P. 24

Incorporate Ex: 1 in your discussion of your scenes. QBA

## Week Three

### Lecture

Discussion of overall plot development ACT 1—ACT 3

What takes place in each act? How does QBA or pivotal point play into this?

### In Class Assignment

*What's stopping your character from getting what he/she wants?*

*What happens to character in Act 2-3*

### Homework

**Chapter 4: Page 61 second act** Read: Joseph Campbell Handout and Linda Seger's handout

## Week Four

### Lecture

Discussion of Character motivation.

Review of the three acts Discussion of the Second Act and Joseph Campbell handout and Linda Seger

### In Class Assignment

*Develop the second Act of the character. Why is your character doing this?*

## Week Five

### Lecture

Continue discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Act

### In Class Assignment

*Class Project*

### Homework

**Plot:Chapter 5 Read p. 82-102**

## Week Six

### Lecture

3<sup>rd</sup> Act discussion: Does the hero get what he wants to not?

### **In Class Assignment**

What happens to your character in the third Act? Does he/she get what he/she wants or not?

### **Homework**

Be prepared to discuss a storyline about the character that you've picked

## **Week Seven**

### **Lecture**

Developing pivotal points in the storyline. Graph.

### **In Class Assignment**

Students will develop their own pivotal points for their character

## **Week Eight**

### **Lecture**

Take home midterm:

Using your pivotal points, character, and Three Act Structure:

Answer the questions and develop a treatment for your story

### **Homework**

#### **Chapter 3:**

Character Background

Exercise: Write a 2-5 page paper about the main character

## **Week Nine**

### **Lecture**

Review Midterm

Discussion of character background: Where did they come from and where are they going?

### **Homework**

#### **Chapter Six**

Dialogue: Other major character do background

## **Week Ten**

### **Lecture**

What is a scene and what should it have in it?

### **Homework**

Chose from one of your Acts and plot points and develop a scene. Make three copies and bring to class

## **Week Eleven**

### **Lecture**

Workshop scenes

### **Homework**

Bring in revised scene for final

Week Twelve

Workshop scenes

**Homework**

Bring in revised scene for final

Week Thirteen

Deadweek---

Workshop scene

All homework due in

Week Fourteen

Grades Due

Grading

Total

Books	20 points	40 points
Scripts	10 points	40 points
Movies	10 points	40 points
Pivotal points	30 points	30 points
Character Background	40 points	40 points
Midterm	100 points	100 points
Scene	100 points	100 points

Midterm:

160 points=A