

FILM458Z Screenwriting: Short Film

Wesleyan University Summer 2022

Center for Film Studies Room #124 (CFS 124)

Tuesday through Friday, 8:30-10:35am

INSTRUCTOR

Mirko Rucnov mirkorucnov@gmail.com 702-374-2163

Office: 181

Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a mix of lecture and writing workshop. The first half of the class focuses on defining the short form. Lectures cover the difference between diverse ways of storytelling and short film structure, proper script format, and writing for a visual medium. The second half of the class is focused on the student work. Students workshop a short film script in class.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Robert McKee's *STORY* and Syd Field's *SCREENPLAY*

ATTENDANCE & GRADING

Attendance

Students should arrive on time to every scheduled class and stay for the duration of class. Students will receive one excused absence and late arrival during the semester to cover for uncontrollable factors such as illness, major family or life events (documents maybe requested to verify), at the discretion of the instructor. These requests must be made in advance in the form of an email or phone call to the professor. Failure to do so will be considered unexcused.

Each unexcused absence will result in a reduction of your Attendance / Participation grade by two full letter grades, for example an A- to a C-. Two unexcused absences will result in an automatic F in your Attendance / Participation grade. Any additional absences may result in an F in the course.

Late arrivals will result in a reduction of your Attendance / Participation grade by a full letter, for example from an A- to a B-. Being tardy three times will result in an F in your Attendance / Participation grade. Additional cases of tardiness may result in an F in the course.

Grading

Attendance / Participation 10% Assignments (in-class) 10% No Dialog Short Script 15%
First Draft Script (8-12 pages) 15% Second Draft (8-12 pages) 20% Final Draft (8-12
pages) 30%

Late projects will drop a full letter grade. The incomplete assignments are not permitted.

IMPORTANT DATES

No Dialog Short Script: July 7th by 2pm (email)

First Draft Script (8-12 pages): July 14th by 2pm (email)

Second Draft (8-12 pages): July 21st by 2pm (email)

Final Draft (8-12 pages): July 31st by 2pm (email)

DISABILITY RESOURCES

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.