

ACADEMIC FREEDOM STATEMENT

Brooks Institute is committed to protecting and encouraging the principles of academic freedom. Academic freedom provides the foundation for scholarship, teaching and learning, and reflects the Institutes fundamental mission to promote collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Essential elements for the intellectual vitality of a college include: the ability to exchange ideas and concepts freely, to explore and disseminate new knowledge, and to speak openly as a professional and as a private citizen. All are encouraged to promote a learning environment that provides opportunities for the free exchange of ideas between faculty, staff and students.

Programmatic Student Learning Outcomes/Mission

The mission of the **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film** Program is to provide a deeply immersive, experiential learning environment that promotes creative expression, best practices, and collaboration as students prepare for a variety of career paths in motion picture production for traditional and emerging media markets.

Program Description

The 120 semester credit **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film** program builds knowledge of the craft of film through a series of core courses culminating in a production workshop and portfolio experience. The program consists of 66 semester credits that cover a variety of aspects of film production including narrative and commercial filmmaking and screenwriting.

In addition, students take 45 semester credits in general education and 9 semester credits in business courses designed to support their professional goals as filmmakers and broaden their understanding and experience of other subject areas.

Upon the completion of the Film Program students should be able to:

- Students can apply film aesthetics in a specific film-making discipline. (Visual Literacy, Problem Solver)
 - Students can analyze the global context of media production and distribution. (Problem Solver, Global)
 - Students collaborate effectively and ethically to accomplish professional goals. (Ethics, Collaboration, Communication)
 - Students use contemporary motion picture tools to communicate a story or concept. (Communication, Adept)
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Course Title	Screenwriting I
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Course Code	FLM250
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Credit Hours	3 Semester
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Contact Hours	3 Hours
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Prerequisites	None
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Course Type	Lecture
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Instructor	David Schwartz
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Email	DSchwartz@brooks.edu
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Course Syllabus

Telephone (805) 585-8068

Term Start/End Date September 8 – December 18, 2015

Course Description This course is an introductory workshop in screenwriting emphasizing story, audience emotional response and building blocks. The basics of visual storytelling are examined as well as key structure and character elements.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the skill of visual storytelling
 - Demonstrate the skills required for correct screenwriting format
 - Demonstrate an ability to recognize the narrative, psychological and symbolic tracks of film
 - Demonstrate the skills of how to pitch and outline an emotionally compelling story for a screenplay
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the skills required to meet industry standards and expectations in the screenwriting profession
 - Demonstrate the skills required to successfully develop a film concept with effective characters, dialogue and narrative build
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the skills necessary to successfully complete a screenplay for a short film
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Required Textbook(s) Snyder, Blake. *Save the Cat*. Michael Wiese Productions, 2005. ISBN: 1932907009

Course Outline

Week 1: Introductions, essentials of great storytelling, creative realities of today's film business.

Week 2: In depth analysis of story structure, the six key moves, introduction to effective outlining models, psychological and symbolic tracks of film

Week 3: Study of screenplay formatting, essentials of character and dialogue

Week 4: Study and critique of student adaptations, group discussion of outlining process

Week 5: Pitching techniques and practice, table reading and critique of outlines

Week 6: In depth analysis of protagonist versus antagonist, conflict, catalyst, climax, dramatic action and writing dialogue

Week 7: Mid-semester review of creative work to date

Week 8: Completion and critique of rough first draft of screenplay

Week 9: Continued table readings in preparation of rewrites

Week 10: Group exercises in reshaping themes, characters and narrative

Week 11: Completion and critique of second draft of screenplay

Week 12: Intensive scene work exercises: dialogue vs. visual storytelling

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Week 13: Final table reading and critique of final draft

Week 14: Discussion of realities of current film industry, standards and designing a personalized strategy for penetrating the film market

Week 15: Final exam; final draft of short screenplay completed

GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND METHODS OF EVALUATING STUDENTS

Letter grades (A, A-, B+, B, etc.)

The student's overall grade for this class is derived from a combination of online instructional activity, class participation, assignments, quizzes and exams, projects, and final project/final exam. A student's grade will be adversely affected by being tardy to class and by any unexcused absence. Only the instructor can authorize exceptions to class policies, deadlines or grades. Students must confirm (in writing) any exceptions to class policies or deadlines with the instructor. Class work is weighted as follows:

Grade Weighting		Grading Scales		
Course Area	%	Percent	Letter	Numeric
		93–100	A	4.00
		90–92	A-	3.70
Class Participation	25%	87–89	B+	3.30
		83–86	B	3.00
Homework	35%	80–82	B-	2.70
		77–79	C+	2.30
		73–76	C	2.00
		70–72	C-	1.70
Final Project/Final Exam	40%	67–69	D+	1.30
		60–66	D	1.00
Total	100%	0–59	F	0.00

DEFINITIONS OF CRITERIA USED IN GRADING

Outstanding = A	Outstanding work, showing insight and demonstrating excellence in skill and craft. Work goes well beyond what is required
Superior = A-, B+	Superior work, shows clear understanding and thorough

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	demonstration of skill and craft
Good = B, B-	Competent work, clear understanding, often showing creativity and good use of skills
Satisfactory = C+, C, C-	Adequate understanding, inconsistent demonstration of skills, some elements missing or problems with priorities
Unsatisfactory = D, F	Lacks understanding, inadequate amount of time and effort demonstrated, many missing elements, inconsistent participation, skill and craftsmanship not demonstrated

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each faculty member takes attendance for each class period and posts it to the student's record through the portal. Once absences equal 20 percent of the total number of class meetings, faculty may lower the final grade for the course one full grade and may drop the grade again for each absence after the 20 percent has been reached. Students may review their attendance through the student portal under each course the student is enrolled in.

Students who do not attend during the first week of class may be subject to withdrawal. Brooks Institute may also withdraw any student who has not been in attendance for 14 consecutive days. However, the institute will withdraw any student who has had non-attendance for 35 consecutive days; this timeframe may be extended due to extraordinary circumstances that affect the entire student population. Students will be responsible for all financial obligations incurred if and when they are withdrawn for lack of attendance

Regular classroom attendance is not only an essential ingredient for academic achievement, but it is also a fundamental building block for success. As part of the course requirements, students must attend at least 80 percent of the scheduled time for each course in order to achieve satisfactory attendance. Students in any of the internship courses are required to complete all scheduled hours and record attendance throughout the scheduled course to achieve satisfactory attendance. Students who do not achieve satisfactory attendance may earn a failing grade on their transcripts and may be required to repeat the course. Absences will include tardiness or early departures. Students who are not in attendance for any portion of a class will accrue time absent calculated in percentage increments of 25, 50, or 100 percent of the class period as reflected on each daily roster. Students who have been absent from all their scheduled classes for more than 14 consecutive calendar days, not including scheduled Institutional holidays or breaks, and/or students who officially withdraw from all current courses may be administratively withdrawn from the Institution.

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Brooks Institute expects all students to exemplify integrity in all academic work. Brooks Institute will not permit students to engage in the following dishonest acts:

- **Cheating** – Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following: using unauthorized notes, study aids, electronic or other devices not authorized by the instructor. Using or borrowing information from another person, or submitting someone else's work as one's own work including images and motion clips. Using work previously submitted for another purpose, without the instructor's permission, is prohibited. Duplicated use of copyrighted material in violation of federal copyright laws is prohibited.
- **Plagiarism** – Submitting as one's own work, in whole or in part, words, ideas, art, designs, text, drawings, images, motion clips, etc. that were produced by another person without attributing that person as the rightful source of the work. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: using words, word passages, pictures, etc. without acknowledgement; paraphrasing ideas without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- **Accessory to Dishonesty** – Knowingly and willfully supplying material or information to another person for the purpose of using the material or information improperly.
- **Falsification or Alteration of Records and Official Documents** - The following are examples of acts under this category, but the list is not exhaustive: altering academic records, forging a signature or authorization on an academic document, or falsifying information on official documents, grade reports, or any other document designed to attest to compliance with school regulations or to exempt from compliance.
- **Software Code of Ethics** – Unauthorized duplication of copyrighted computer software violates the law and is contrary to our organization's standards of conduct. Brooks Institute disapproves of such copying and recognizes the following principles as a basis for preventing its occurrence:
 - Brooks Institute will neither engage in nor tolerate the making or using of unauthorized software copies under any circumstances.
 - Brooks Institute will only use legally acquired software on our computers.
 - Brooks Institute will comply with all license or purchase terms regulating the use of any software we acquire or use.
 - Brooks Institute will enforce strong internal controls to prevent the making or using of unauthorized software copies, including effective measures to verify compliance with these standards and appropriate disciplinary measure for violation of these standards.
- **Communication Devices**-To maintain academic integrity and to eliminate distractions for other students the use of electronic devices in the classroom is dictated by the instructor.

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CREDIT ASCRIPTION ADDENDUM

FLM250 Screenwriting 1 - 3 semester credit hours

Type: Lecture/Studio

Credit Ascription- The amount of hours spent outside of class and assignment alignment with Course Learning Objectives

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the skill of visual storytelling
2. Demonstrate the skills required for correct screenwriting format
3. Demonstrate an ability to recognize the narrative, psychological and symbolic tracks of film
4. Demonstrate the skills of how to pitch and outline an emotionally compelling story for a screenplay
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills required to meet industry standards and expectations in the screenwriting profession
6. Demonstrate the skills required to successfully develop a film concept with effective characters, dialogue and narrative build
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills necessary to successfully complete a screenplay for a short film

The following indicates the **minimum** number of hours per assignment:

	Assignment Title	Homework Hours	Assignment Objectives
Week 1	Generate five story ideas w/personal themes	4	1,3
Week 2	Narrow story choices to one and develop	4	1,3
Week 3	Prepare story for pitch	4	1,3,4,5
Week 4	Develop narrative track in rough outline	4	1,3,4,5
Week 5	Add psychological and symbolic track to outline	4	1,3,6
Week 6	Revise outline	4	1,3,6
Week 7	Write rough Act One in correct screenplay format	4	2,3,5,6
Week 8	Write rough Act Two in correct screenplay format	4	2,5,6
Week 9	Write rough Act Three in correct screenplay format	4	2,5,6
Week 10	Incorporate table reading notes to revise Act One	4	2,5,6
Week 11	Incorporate table reading notes to revise Act Two	4	2,5,6
Week 12	Incorporate table reading notes to revise Act Three	4	2,4,5,6
Week 13	Complete final screenplay	6	5,6,7
Week 14	Complete master plan for screenplay submission	6	5,6,7
Total		60	