Chaminade University of Honolulu
SCRIPT WRITING
COM 36690 On line
Fall Evening 1998
Instructor: Achilles S.C. Gacis MA, SAG
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OVERVIEW:

This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to examine

the fundamentals basic to screen writing. A working knowledge of screenplay formats

will be studied (outlines, treatments, spec scripts, shooting scripts, revisions, etc.) ,

along with: story development, plot points, character development, dialog writing, action

description, story boarding, techniques for suspense, comedy, inspiration, and ...a

myriad of other possibilities the screenwriter is able produce, control, and participate in.

REQUIRED TEXTS: **Field, Syd.** (1984). **The Screenwriter's Workbook. New York: Dell Trade Paperbacks.**

Field, Syd. (1994). (3`d ed.) Screenplay. New York: **Dell Trade Paperbacks.**

Cole, Hillis R. and Haag, Judith H. (1995). **The complete guide to standard script formats. North Hollywood: CMC Publishing.**

CLASS PROJECTS/ASSIGNMENTS:

25 pts.	1. **A complete four page treatment.**
25 pts	2. **A complete listing and biography of every character in the treatment.**
25 pts.	3. **A "whammy chart" and index card file.**
25 pts.	4. **A near-complete 115 page screenplay.**

GETTING STARTED...

Syd Field

"Workbook"	**Due**	**"Screenplay"**
(Exercises)		**(Readings)**
Ch. 1 Beginning.................10/18....................................Intro, **1, 2**		
Ch. 2 Structure..................10/18.....................................Ch. 6		
(Just the things I need to read)		
Ch. 3 Paradigm................. 10/18..................................... Ch. **7,8,9**		
Ch. 4 Treatment...............10/25....................................Ch. **10**		
Ch. 5 Character (Good).... 10/25.....................................Ch. **3,4,5**		
Ch.6 **Character (Tools).....** 10/25...................................... **" " "**		
Ch.7 **Character.................10/25......................................** **" "**		
(Visual Dynamics)		

WRITING THE SCREENPLAY...

Cole/Haag Text:
Read Introduction - p.7
Read p.8 - p.41, Do exercise p. 43..........11 /8
Read p. **47-70, Do exercise p. 71............11 /8**
Read p. 76 - 111

"Workbook"		**"Screenplay"**
Ch. 8 Structuring.......................................10/18...................................Ch.**11,** **17**		
Ch. 9 First Ten Pages.............................10/25...................................Ch. **12, 13**		
Ch. 10 Second Ten Pages 8/15		
Ch. 11 New paradigm .... (Just read)		
Ch. 12 Mid-point 11/22-29		
Ch. 13 1 **st** half, 2"d half 12/6		
Ch. **15 Resolution 12/12**		

NOTES •

This is a writing intensive course so expect to be at your computer for a reasonable length of time. We will have text assignments according to the syllabus headings and according to where we are with our respective screenplays. Since each student will approach the creative endeavor differently, the structure will be emphasized right from day one. Standard industry format allows for no new writing styles ... even if you are the next Quentin Tarantino. We will schedule a meeting at your convenience during and towards the end of the course.