Chaminade University of Honolulu
SCRIPT WRITING
COM 36690 On line
Spring Evening 1999
Instructor: Achilles S.C. Gacis MA, SAG
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Catalog Description: *Instruction and practice in the creation, writing, editing, production, and marketing of scripts and screenplays. Emphasis will be on creation of commercial messages, audiovisual, scripts, corporate films, television screenplays, movie scripts, and adaptation of literature into visual presentations. Offered annually. Prerequisites: COM 150 &200.*

OVERVIEW:
This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to examine the fundamentals basic to script 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. The communicator's ability to develop effective visual presentations of varying mediums begins with a core understanding of script writing techniques. The creativity to implement these basics becomes evident with the gradual development of one's personal style.

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

Field, Syd. (1994). (3rd 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:**

50 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.
100 pts.	4. A near-complete 115 page screenplay.

COURSE OUTLINE
Apr. 05-June 14 Spring Evening, On-line

GETTING STARTED...

S_ yd Field

"Workbook" (Exercises)	Due	"Screenplay" (Readings)
Ch. 1 Beginning.................4/17.....................................Intro, 1, 2		
Ch. 2 Structure...........mm..4/17......................................Ch. 6		
(Just the things I need to read)		
Ch. 3 Paradigm.................. 4/17...................................... Ch. 7,8,9		
Ch. 4 Treatment................4/17...................................... Ch. 10		
Ch. 5 Character (Good).... 4/30...................................... Ch. 3,4,5		
Ch.6 Character (Tools)..... 4/30...................................... " " "		
Ch.7 Character.................4/30.. "		
(**Visual Dynamics)**		

WRITING THE SCREENPLAY...

Cole/Haag **Text**:
Read Introduction - p.7
Read p.8 - p.41, Do exercise p. 43..........5/8
Read p. 47-70, Do exercise p. 71............5/8
Read p. 76 - 111

'Workbook"		"Screenplay"
Ch. 8 Structuring.......................................4/17.................................... Ch. 11, 17		
Ch. 9 First Ten Pages.............................5/26.................................... Ch. 12, 13		
Ch. 10 Second Ten Pages 5/29		
Ch. 11 New paradigm.......................(Just read)		
Ch. 12 Mid-point 5/29		
Ch. 13 1st half, 2"d half 5/29		
Ch. 15 Resolution 5/29		

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.