Course Syllabus

Course Title: Creative Scriptwriting I

Course Description:
Working from an idea or concept, this course will cover the basic structure of a script for film or TV. Learn how to create and develop your own movie idea into a "Spec Script", the "calling card" to producers and studios. More importantly, you will write and receive input through each act of your own script.

Course Prerequisite(s):
None

Course Objectives:
1. Identify the components for the basic structure of a script.
2. Discover how to find marketable ideas.
3. The first page and why it’s important.
5. Learn what makes characters sizzle.
6. Discover methods to utilize when your story is "stuck".
7. Develop heroes and heroines.

Textbook(s): recommended reading -
The Hero’s Journey, by Chris Vogler;
Screenplay Structure, by Syd Field;
How to Write a Movie in 21 Days, by Vickie King;
How to Sell Your Idea to Hollywood, by Bob Kosberg

Lesson Plans:
Session 1: Discuss how a spec script is sold and how to write towards that goal.
Discuss ideas for stories and where to find them.
Why is the first page so important - writing the first page.

Session 2: Discuss more ideas
What makes a good screenplay
How to make it visual
Basic structure, the plot line and dramatic beats
The first 10 pages and why they are so important

Session 3: A review of the plot line
A lesson on segments
Theme and metaphors and how they can carry the script forward

Session 4: Characters! Who are they and what is their story and how do their personalities deal with conflict to move the story forward.

Session 5: Criticism: how to take it and how to give it constructively
How to write a pitch for your movie
Discussion on the one sentence and the paragraph and the one page pitch

Session 6: How to write your script creatively, while still making it marketable
Readers, producers, agents, and managers and their role in marketing a spec script
Discussion of the 2nd act and why it is the most difficult

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Session 7: The hero’s journey or how your main character (protagonist) makes it through your movie
   The everyday person dealing with conflict
   Hand in rough draft for critiquing

Session 8: Discussion of the rough drafts
   Tips on keeping going to an acceptable completed script
   How to register your script, marketing tips and contests