

**School of Cinematic Arts
Writing Coverage for Hollywood
CTWR 417: Story Analysis**

Instructor: Peter Exline <exline@usc.edu>
Class Schedule: Monday 10 AM -12:50 PM
Class Location: SCB 104
Office Hours: By Appointment only Monday 4PM
Course Info: #19206

Course Objective:

Students will learn to intelligently and constructively evaluate material with balanced criticism. Students will learn the essentials of dramatic writing, how to write loglines, a brief synopsis and balanced criticism, as well as learning to write notes with suggestions for improving a screenplay.

Course Description:

Students will read, synopsize and criticize five screenplays and a novel during the semester.

Course Reading:

"The Player" by Michael Tolkin
5 screenplays Custom Publishing Reader

Grading Criteria:

Students work must accurately reflect Genre, a 26 word logline, a brief synopsis of the material, and four paragraphs of comments detailing the strength and weaknesses of the original material.

Participation:	10%
Home work	40%
Final Screenplay	50%

	100%

A	100% to 94%	C	76% to 73%
A-	93% to 90%	C-	72% to 70%
B+	89% to 87%	D+	69% to 67%
B	86% to 83%	D	66% to 63%
B-	82% to 80%	D-	62% to 60%
C+	79% to 77%	F	59% to 0%

Writing Division Attendance Policy:

Students are expected be on time and prepared for each class. Two unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered by one full point (ex: A to a (A-)). A third unexcused absence will result in your grade being lowered another full point (ex: B to a (B-)). Your grade will be lowered by one point for every absence. Two late arrivals equates to one full absence.

Only absences with medical documentation will be excused absences for USC.

Please note that if you are a Writing for Screen and Television major/minor you must receive a grade of a C or better in order to receive degree credit. If you have any questions about the minimum grade required for credit please check with your home department.

If you have an emergency and must miss class please contact your professor prior to class or contact the Writing Division at 213-740-3303.

Laptop and Cell Phone Policy:

No Laptops or Cellphones in class.

Class Schedule:

Jan. 9	What a story analyst does: Forms of Coverage, Genre Lists, Glossary Assignment— — — — — Read “Tootsie”
Jan 16.	No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday
Jan. 23	What a story analyst sees: The Three Act Structure “Tootsie” Coverage Due Assignment— — — — — Read “The Player” Novel
Jan. 30	The Set-Up: What it’s about, who it’s about. Screenings: Movie Openings
Feb. 6	Novel Into Screenplay: Transformation from Internal Monologue to Dialogue and Action: “The Player” novel coverage due Assignment— — — — — Begin Reading “The Player” screenplay.
Feb. 13	Conflict: The Essence of Drama
Feb. 20	No Class: President’s Day National Holiday Assignment— — — — — Coverage for “The Player” SP Turn in Tuesday, Feb. 21, Room 360, Adjunct Faculty Office Peter Exline Mailbox Assignment— — — — — Begin Reading “The Fugitive”
Feb. 27	Theme: Notes for a final re-write of “The Player” Assignment— — — — — Reading “The Fugitive”
March 6	Mid-Term Screening “The Player” Assignment— — — — — “The Fugitive” Coverage due
March 13	No Class: Spring Break

March 20	Deconstructing "The Fugitive" and its problems: Who is this person? What does s/he want? Why can't s/he have it? What will s/he do to get it? How will the outcome of the story change this person's life?
March 27	Script Notes: How to make it better: Detailing one possible re-write for "The Fugitive" Assignment— — — — —Begin Notes for "The Fugitive rewrite.
April 3	Screening Rough Cut of "The Fugitive" Development Notes on "The Fugitive" rewrite due Assignment— — — — —Begin Reading "Mother's Day"
April 10	The Three Act structure, how it works. Screening movie clips
April 17	The Episodic Structure: How it works. "Mother's Day" Coverage Due Assignment— — — — —Begin Reading Final Screenplay
April 24	Final Class: Guest Speaker
May 1	Final Screenplay Due 1PM Room 360 Exline Mailbox

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>. Information on intellectual property at USC is available at: <http://usc.edu/academe/acsen/issues/ipr/index.html>.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

Please activate your course in Blackboard with access to the course syllabus. Whether or not you use Blackboard regularly, these preparations will be crucial in an emergency. USC's Blackboard learning management system and support information is available at blackboard.usc.edu.

Disruptive Student Behavior

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.