

# Screenwriting in Spain – Seville, Spain

**CINE 384 Study Abroad or CINE 350 Screenwriting      FALL 2024      Prof. Marc Moody, MFA**

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**Teacher contact/availability:** available to see students individually by appointment after class;  
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## **DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is writing for film. The student will attempt one of (2) choices.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Act of a Feature Screenplay (Approx. 17 pages)
2. Screenplay Short. (Approx 10 to 30 pages)

The student's story will have one consistent theme - *experiences and insight from Spain*. This can be personal or an original creative idea with boundaries set in Spain, incorporated within one's story.

## **OBJECTIVES, GOALS and OUTCOMES**

1. To provide an extensive knowledge of the screenplay format, style, and implementation of story development in the 3 act structure of the feature screenplay.
2. To develop artistic creative writing in developing your own ideas, story structure and scene by scene outline of the feature screenplay.
3. To critique and share your own work, as well as others, in a creative writing workshop.
4. To explore and observe professional American and Spanish screenplays and produced films, as well as, other non-mainstream works produced in Spain.

## **METHOD**

This class is conducted in a Creative Writing Workshop. The most important aspect of this course is to energize and pull out your creative writing ability and talents. To learn the art and appreciation of storytelling and to incorporate these tools in your own creative writing.

Critique from fellow students is essential. Assignments will be read and critiqued by all in the class workshop.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **Project 1**

#### *Creating the IDEA*

You will create three (3) story ideas. Of the three ideas, one will eventually be chosen which will be developed to a feature script or short screenplay. A discussion with your peers will take place. From this, you will get pertinent information on which story works best, allowing you to pick the story you feel you want to write about or at least consider.

As ideas are presented, the student will identify a point of inquiry related to character, plot and theme in Spain.

## **Project 2**

### *2-Minute Movie*

Two page narrative description of the idea (story) you have decided to write. This is, more or less, your movie told in 2 minutes. Like your 3 ideas, this story will be discussed through constructive criticism, allowing you to better shape and mold your story for the next step in developing your screenplay.

Student will demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues as it relates to Spain with a critical understanding of the need for differing points of view through their building of story and conflict.

## **Project 3**

### *Scene Outline*

- 1<sup>st</sup> ACT SCREENPLAY - A scene-by-scene “breakdown” outline, consisting of one or two lines - short sentences of your feature screenplay. (roughly 40 to 60 scenes)
- SHORT SCRIPT - A more in-depth paragraph scene breakdown of your short script.

## **Project 4**

### *1st Act of feature screenplay or a screenplay short.*

All 1st Acts and script shorts will be read aloud, with casting of characters followed by class critique.

From your final assignment, critical thinking and self-understanding are goals for this creative writing construction. This is your story. But as a study abroad student, the need and requirement to assess and demonstrate a cultural awareness of your environment in Spain is critical.

## **Additional**

### *Seville, Spain Visual Journal*



To enhance your creative writing, you will be keeping a visual journal. You will need a camera or smart phone. Prior to assignment, we will go over a few “basics” in good framing and sound. After that you will make videos for several places during the week.

For example:

- Classes at the International College of Seville and Universidad de Sevilla.
- Host family
- Culture of Seville
- Excursions taken

This exercise will help you connect story with visuals, what screenwriting is all about.

Guidelines (themes) for your visual journal will be:

1. Experiences with the class and class activities in Spain.
2. Observations in Spain and how these observations unfold within a visual story.
3. What are my experiences as an international student or how my experiences as a student with international class members are different from my experiences at my home University.
4. Explain how personal observations and keeping a visual journal assist in writing my creative screenplay.



At the end of the semester we will be completing an edited version from your video clips for yourself and UH Study Abroad which will use your creative work for future student recruitment.

### Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Success in this course means you will:

1. Locate, retrieve, read/view, and understand relevant resources in text and handouts.
2. Demonstrate awareness in Spanish culture and issues related to cross-cultural communication and creative writing input.
3. Reflect critically on communication narrative.
4. Critically evaluate screenwriting form, style and narrative storytelling.

**Important Note: This class can be available for students who are NOT Communication majors. The course could be of great interest to English, ACM, and Theatre students.**

#### **RUBRIC #1** *Adaptation from Rcampus*

Assessment Com 433

Rubric for all assignments

Dimension	BELOW	APPROACHING	MEETS	ABOVE
<b>DIALOGUE</b>	Dialogue does not allow for story flow; dialogue is not consistent with the story line and does not allow for characterization.	Dialogue slightly inhibits story flow; dialogue is sometimes not consistent with the story line and does not allow for complex characterization.	Dialogue allows story flow; dialogue is consistent with the story line and allows for characterization.	Dialogue assists and carries the storyline; dialogue is always consistent with the story line and allows for realistic characters.

<b>GENRE WRITING</b>	Writing is not modeled after mentor text.  Writing does not follow the conventions of the setting or screenplay writing.	Writing is slightly modeled after mentor text.  Writing follows some of the conventions of the setting or screenplay writing.	Writing is modeled after mentor text.  Writing does follow the conventions of the setting or screenplay writing	Writing is directly modeled after mentor text.  Writing does follow the conventions of the court setting and screenplay writing and makes it a natural part of the story.
<b>UNDERSTANDING SPAIN</b>	Very little understanding and analysis of how culture in Spain relates to the student in their creative writing storytelling.	Adequate understanding and analysis of how culture in Spain relates to the student in their creative writing storytelling.	Modest understanding and analysis of how culture in Spain relates to the student in their creative writing storytelling.	Thorough understanding and analysis of how culture in Spain relates to the student in their creative writing storytelling.
<b>EDITING SKILLS</b>	Writing shows no evidence of editing in regard to spelling, grammar and punctuation.	Writing shows some evidence of editing in regard to spelling, grammar and punctuation.	Writing shows evidence of editing in regard to spelling, grammar and punctuation.	Writing shows clear evidence of well executed editing in regard to spelling, grammar and punctuation.

### Study Abroad Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

The following Study Abroad SLOs will be assessed through your creative writing and journaling. For creative writing, cultural objectives can be incorporated through your story's theme - *experiences and insight from Spain*.

#### SCREENPLAY Learning Outcomes/Objectives

1. Demonstrate awareness of your characters values and biases in relation with others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity and population within your story.
3. Characters communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups in Spain.
4. Demonstrate awareness in analyzing or displaying issues in Spain presented within your story.

#### VISUAL JOURNAL Learning Outcomes/Objectives

1. Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how they impact your ability to work with others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your study abroad program.
3. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.
4. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

## IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Concerning creative writing, you should not try to mechanicalize these objectives we have presented. But you should try to incorporate an umbrella of study abroad and creative writing objectives in a telling way.

That's the main objective! *Show it. Don't tell it.*

## EXAMS

There will be no exams or test. Your creative work is what is graded. Work is judged through Rubric and Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives. Deadlines are imperative. Each DAY the student who does not hand in assigned work, their work will be lowered by one full letter grade.

## EVALUATION and GRADING SYSTEM

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Points</i>
Project 1	20%
Project 2	20 %
Project 3	20%
Project 4	30%
VISUAL JOURNAL	10%
TOTAL points	100%

Following **grading system** will be observed:

0 - 59 = **F**,    60 - 69 = **D**,    70 - 72 = **C-**,    73 - 76 = **C**,    77 - 79 = **C+**,  
80 - 82 = **B-**,    83 - 86 = **B**,    87 - 89 = **B+**,    90 - 92 = **A-**,    93 - 100 = **A**

## CLASS GUIDELINES

- 1.Participation is mandatory. This class is conducted in a workshop environment. Your participation and critique of your fellow classmate's creative writing is needed.
- 2.Writing assignments must be turned in on its DUE DATE. If you are late, your grade will be taken down to half a credit until it is turned in.
- 3.No plagiarism is allowed. Plagiarized material is an automatic F for the assignment. An automatic F for the course if continued.

## **SCHEDULED CLASS VISITS:**

TBA

## **9 - READINGS & SOURCES**

- **Textbook - Mandatory** Lew Hunter Screenwriting 434
- **Mandatory Booklet/Course pack:** TBA

**10 - ADDITIONAL COSTS** – Textbook, Course Reader, transportation costs.

**11 - VISITS and TRIPS** - Four class-based field trip TBA.

**12 – MATERIALS** – not applicable

**9 - CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction CHAPTER 1: IDEAS 3-Act Structure – What? Discussing your Story Idea Discuss Project 1
<b>Week 2</b>	FILM CHAPTER 2: THE TWO-MINUTE MOVIE Project 1 Due / Read & critique in class
<b>Week 3</b>	CHAPTER 3: BUILDING YOUR CHARACTERS Project 1 Due / Read & critique in class (CONT'D)
<b>Week 4</b>	FILM – BREAKDOWN DISCUSSION OF 3 ACT STRUCTURE
<b>Week 5</b>	CHAPTER 4: THE OUTLINE FOR YOU AND “THEM” Project 2 due / Read & critique in class
<b>Week 6</b>	Reviewing Spanish screenplays or screenplays on Spain Project 2 due /Read & critique in class (CONT'D)
<b>Week 7 &amp; 8</b>	CHAPTER 5, 6 & 7 (ACT ONE, ACT TWO AND ACT THREE SCRIPT) Project 2 Due / READ & CRITIQUE IN CLASS (CONT'D)
<b>Week 9</b>	BRING IN A FILM AND SHOW 1 SCENE (Film is Spanish or Spanish theme) ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS Why do you like it? Why does it work? Why do you want to share this with others?
<b>Week 10 &amp; 14</b>	Project 3 due / Read & critique in class READING ACT 1 or FILM SHORT Spain Journal due (last week)