

THE NEW SCHOOL CERTIFICATE IN SCREENWRITING

The New School awards a Certificate in Screenwriting for successful completion of a sequence of approved courses. Upon completing the core sequence of screenwriting courses, students have a comprehensive grounding in story, character, theme, action, visuals and dialogue, as they have been carefully guided through the entire screenplay writing process by our distinguished faculty. The certificate program is open to the committed student at any level of experience.

The Certificate in Screenwriting curriculum consists of six approved courses. Upon completion, participants should have a professional screenplay ready for the marketplace.

Four courses are required and should be taken in the following order. Electives can be taken at any time during course of study.

- **Script Analysis**
- **Screenwriting 1: Fundamentals**
- **Screenwriting 2: Writing the Screenplay (permission required)**
- **Screenwriting 3: Finishing the First Draft (permission required)**

Students select two elective courses from the Film Studies curriculum to complete the screenwriting certificate program. The program can be finished in as little as a year, but a longer course of study is acceptable. Certificate approval is based on attendance and participation, comprehension of theories and techniques, and final projects.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCREENWRITING CERTIFICATE ELECTIVES

Rewrite & Polish

Highly recommended! No one writes a perfect 1st draft, so this important class covers what needs to be done to revise a script so it fully delivers on its potential.

Writing for the One-Hour Episodic TV Drama

Designed for students who want to learn how to write drama TV shows.

Writing for Television

Offered online, this course focuses on how to write for 30 minute situation-comedies.

Writing a Micro-Budget Feature

Offered online and is designed for students who want to write a feature film that can be made on a very small budget.

Screenwriting for the Web

Offered online in Fall semester. Helps students prepare and write a web series.

Writing the Short Film

Offered online for students who want to learn how the specific issues of writing a successful short film.

Adaptation: Page to Screen

Offered online, this course tackles the specific issues of adapting a book, play or magazine article into a screenplay.

THE NEW SCHOOL

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The Business of Screenwriting

This course explains how to find an agent and what can realistically be expected from one.

What Buyers Want: Writing Scripts That Sell

This course teaches aspiring writers how to write a script that could actually be sold to a Hollywood studio, production company, or independent producer.

There are a host of Cinema Studies classes offered every semester that delve into specific genres and aspects of films that can be highly informative to a writer. The below is not a complete list by no means, but mentions the ones that run most consistently. Again, check each semester's catalog to get the full list of offerings.

Introduction to Cinema Studies

The class views and discusses a range of classic films (and excerpts from others) as students develop a cinematic vocabulary and the ability to read a film through critical analysis.

The Art of Film

This course is ideal both for students who wish to learn how to analyze cinematic texts and for production-oriented students taking Filmmaking Studio or related courses.

The Anatomy of Horror Films

This course is a political survey of horror films that reveal a direct relationship to the social unconscious.

Comedy on Screen

This course introduces theories of comedy, laughter, and the carnivalesque through acclaimed comedies of world cinema. We explore comedy in the context of film history, media studies, cultural theory and critique, symbolic anthropology, semiotics, and genre theory.

Literary Cinema: The Art of Adaptation

This course explores the profound, elusive process of how great literature becomes great cinema.

Developing Ideas for Film

In this course, each student develops a concept for a five-minute non-sync-sound film (which could be produced in the Filmmaking Studio course), exploring these questions before production begins.

In general, filmmaking production courses are not recommended for Screenwriting Certificate electives because they are too focused on specific technical elements, but here are some classes that will expose writers to aspects of filmmaking that could impact their writing of scripts.

The Aesthetics of Directing

Designed for students who are making or planning to make their own films, this course covers the art and craft of directing. We analyze the work of classic and contemporary directors, observing how they use the language of cinema.

Directing Actors for Film and Television

This intensive workshop explores every stage of working with actors from the initial conception of the character to final editing for performance.

The Business of Hollywood

In this course, students actually participate in hypothetical business scenarios. The unique role-playing structure is designed to provide a glimpse of the real-world machinations of Hollywood deal-making and provides essential business knowledge for aspiring filmmakers or executives entering the film business.

Independent Filmmaking from A to Z

This course is a complete, step-by-step education in independent filmmaking, from financing and budgeting to festival circuits, distribution, and release.

THE NEW SCHOOL

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The Producer's Role

This course tracks the producer's role from the selection of material to the delivery of the production. Students choose a project and spend the term developing a professional-quality proposal.

SCREENWRITING CERTIFICATE ADVISING

Students can seek advisement on course options and eligibility by contacting the Screenwriting Certificate Advisor: ScreenwritingAdvisor@newschool.edu.

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