



## Hollins University Graduate Screenwriting & Film Studies Courses Summer 2021 (online)

A Note on Scheduling: Because we are on-line this summer and students will be attending from across the country, our schedule takes into account the various time zones from which our students and faculty will be attending. Therefore, all classes have been programmed within the hours of 12:00 and 7:00pm EST, with careful attention given to avoiding overlap and doubling-up of required courses. Our featured Guest Artists will be speaking from 7:30-9pm on Monday and Friday evenings.

**All times are listed as Eastern Standard Time.**

### REQUIRED COURSES

**Reminder: FILM 505 and FILM 510 are required courses for all students. Both should be taken during a student's first year in the program.**

#### **FILM 505: NARRATIVE THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR SCREENWRITERS (4)**

**This course is offered every year to new students. It is a pre-requisite for all writing courses.**

Workshop course in which students study and practice the fundamentals of narrative, the art of visual storytelling, and the elements of dramatic writing for the screen. Narrative strategies for establishing structure, pacing, setting, characterization, and dialogue will be provided through model films and writing exercises. Writers will complete the first act of an original script.

Prerequisite for other screenwriting courses. Required Text: Classical Storytelling and Contemporary Screenwriting by Brian Price.

**Instructor: Brian Price CRN 68496**

**Meets: Tue/Thu: 12:00noon – 3:00pm**

#### **FILM 507: CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR – SCREENWRITING (4)**

**This course is offered every year as students must take it two times as part of requirements.**

Workshop course in which class members further develop skills in the writing and analysis of narrative screenplays. Designed for those with prior experience in screenwriting. Must be repeated for credit but may not be taken more than once per term. Prerequisite: FILM 505.

Required Text: Classical Storytelling and Contemporary Screenwriting by Brian Price.

**Instructor: Brian Price CRN 68497**

**Meets: Mon: 3:30pm to 6:30pm**

**Wed: 4:00pm – 7:00pm**

**FILM 510: FILM ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH (4)**

This is a **required** course offered every year.

Study of methods of film analysis and research. Course covers the major approaches to film analysis, the tools used in film research, and the major representative eras, movements, and methodologies of film discourse. Required Text: A Short Guide to Writing about Film (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Timothy Corrigan (Please read before first meeting. All other readings will be provided in class or online.)

**Instructor: Joe Gilford CRN 68498**

**Meets: Wed/Fri: 12:00noon – 3:00pm**

**FILM 595: ADVANCED SCREENWRITING TUTORIAL (4)**

This course is offered every year. It is required of all students in the MFA and is taken toward the end of their program.

Highly concentrated, intensive course to be taken during a student's final summer in the program. Students will spend six weeks doing a rewrite of a script written in a previous Hollins course. Class meets as a group once a week to discuss relevant topics related to screenwriting as a craft and career; in addition, weekly one-on-one meetings, determined according to students' unique schedules, will afford a more individualized approach to the work. Not open to students in the M.A. program. No textbooks required.

**Instructor: Joe Gilford CRN 68503**

**Meets: Group meeting: Monday 11:30am – 2:30pm**

**One-On-One meetings: to be scheduled individually (by agreement between student and instructor)**

---

**ELECTIVE COURSES****FILM 550.1: SPECIAL TOPICS: WRITING ANIMATION FOR TV (4)**

The animated TV market is booming, with animation for kids, families, and adults regularly topping the ratings, and new content arriving almost weekly. Nowadays, an aspiring writer's portfolio is not quite complete without a professional sample for animated programming. This advanced class will cover the major differences between writing for animation and live action, as students develop and execute their own animated teleplay spec. No textbooks required.

**Instructor: Chuck Kim CRN 68499**

**Meets: Wed/Fri 12:00noon-3:00pm**

**FILM 550.2: SPECIAL TOPICS: PITCH IT UP A NOTCH! (4)**

So you've written a great script. Now what? To be successful, you have to be adept at much more than simply writing. Screenwriting is a business, and successful writers need skills to market themselves, their ideas, and their stories. In this workshop, students will improve their pitching skills, from conception to writing and delivery, while deepening their understanding of how meetings are setup, meeting etiquette, maintaining relationships, and more. In a highly competitive market, it's crucial that a writer find their own unique vision and style, while also understanding how to finesse a pitch to a specific studio, executive, production company, etc., NOTE: Students must come to the course with one completed feature or original pilot they

wish to focus on, as well as a concept they've developed, but have not yet written. No textbooks required.

**Instructor: Hunter Phillips CRN 68501**

**Meets: Tues/Thurs: 12:00noon – 3:00pm**

**FILM 550.3: SPECIAL TOPICS: HORROR/THRILLER WRITING (4)**

If the question is “What is the single most popular genre of film in the industry today,” the answer is unquestionably HORROR. Part lecture/discussion and part workshop, this class will focus on the essential films and conventions of this lucrative genre, through survey, history, and analysis. Given that audiences were terrified by Karloff’s Monster in 1931, but 16 years later he was a straight guy to comedy duo Abbott & Costello, it’s clear that horror, like our own fears, mutate. As such, the focus will be on contemporary horror as metaphor. In short, how do you still scare a jaded audience, using old magician tricks, but fueled by acutely contemporary fears? But more than a mere study, students will utilize that exploration of the various ways that effective horror elements are used to reveal character and generate plot to craft their own feature film idea through outline and beyond. No textbooks required.

**Instructor: Simon Herbert CRN 68502**

**Meets: T/Th 4:00pm-7:00pm**