

CP 512: Creative Producing Thesis II

When: Wednesdays · 6:30pm – 9:45pm
Where: LA Campus (Medium Classroom)

Instructor: Cory Carroll · ccarro31@depaul.edu · 323-829-0588
Office Hours: By appointment · Email to set a time

Summary of Course

Students will revise their thesis projects based on the feedback from the instructor and thesis advisors. During this stage, students will be expected to be securing any story rights necessary for the completion of the project and finishing creating their professional decks.

Prerequisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Create a path-to-production for student-selected feature-length screenplay or teleplay.
- Craft professional-level pitches.
- Devise a cogent production plan by breaking down elements of student-selected feature film screenplay or teleplay.
- Design marketing and distribution plans for student-selected feature film or television project.
- Workshop and apply professional-level feedback to student-selected feature films or television projects in creative roundtable meetings.

Grading

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| Attendance & Participation | 20% |
| Weekly Assignments | 35% |
| Midterm: Dev. Notes & Packaging Report | 20% |
| Final: Thesis Pitch & Rev. Creative Report | 25% |

A= 100-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-88, B=87-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-78, C=77-73, C-=72-70, D+=69-68, D=67-63, D-=62-60, F=59-0. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Textbook

Assigned reading material will provided by Instructor.

Course Outline

Week 1 – January 10

Lecture: Course Intro, Thesis Overview, Project Updates, Setting Goals for a Rewrite

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Weekly Assignment 1 - Goals for Next Draft, Project Loglines (3-5 options) + Student Introduction & Producer Mission Statement (Due Wednesday, 1/17 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 2 – January 17

Lecture: Packaging Your Project - Part 1 (Directors, Talent, Producers, Showrunners), Competitive Development - Understanding Where Your Project Fits in the Marketplace

Workshop: Goals for Next Draft + Mission Statements + Project Loglines

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Weekly Assignment 2 - Competitive Development List (3-5 comps) (Due Wednesday, 1/24 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 3 – January 24

Lecture: Devising a Production Plan - Part 1 (Budgeting Your Project & How to Finance It)

Workshop: Competitive Development Lists

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Weekly Assignment 3 - Budget Overview Report + Financial Avenues + Financial Comps (Due Wednesday, 1/31 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 4 – January 31

Lecture: Crafting Your Pitch, Packaging Your Project - Part 2 (Casting Directors, Department Heads, Vendors)

Workshop: Budget Overviews + Financial Comps + Financial Avenues

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Thesis Project Pitch, Midterm Assignment: Development notes on current draft of thesis project + revised & expanded packaging report (incl. casting directors, department heads, & vendors) (Hard copies of midterm assignment due in class on Wednesday, 2/7)

Week 5 – February 7

Lecture: Devising a Production Plan - Part 2 (Finding a Location)

Workshop: Project Pitches

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Thesis Project Pitch, Weekly Assignment 4 - Locations (3-5 options) (Due Wednesday, 2/14 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 6 – February 14

Lecture: Marketing Strategies & Marketing Designs + Tie-ins/Promos/Publicity Plan

Workshop: Locations + Project Pitches

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Thesis Project Pitch, Weekly Assignment 5 - One-sheet + Marketing Tie-ins/Promos/Publicity Strategies + Revised Marketing Comps & Case Studies (Due Wednesday, 2/21 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 7 – February 21

Lecture: Methods of Distribution

Workshop: Marketing Report Overview + Project Pitches

Assignments: Industry Roundup, Thesis Project Pitch, Weekly Assignment 6 - Distribution Overview Plan + Distributors List + Sales Agents/Companies List (Due Wednesday, 3/6 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class)

Week 8 – February 28

No class.

Week 9 – March 6

Lecture: Guest Speaker (Development Executive)

Workshop: Project Pitches with Guest Speaker

*Assignments: Industry Roundup, Weekly Assignment 7 - Revised Written Pitch (**Due Wednesday, 3/13 by 6P via email + hard copy due in class**)*

Week 10 – March 13

Lecture: Thesis Report Wrap Up

Workshop: Distribution Overview

*Assignments: Final Assignment: Thesis Project Pitch + Revised Creative Report (**Hard copy due in class on Wednesday, 3/20**)*

Week 11 – March 20

Presentation: Thesis Project Pitch + Revised Creative Report (Final Assignment)

Assignments

Attendance & Participation (20% of final grade)

Each class we will start with a group discussion analyzing the weekend box office report, film releases from the previous weekend, and an industry recap of the past week. Each student is encouraged to bring their own findings to the discussion. Most classes throughout the course will include group workshoping of thesis projects and pitching. Each student is required to participate in workshoping their fellow students' work each session. In addition, attendance for each lecture is mandatory. If you cannot attend class for any reason, you must email the instructor *before* the class begins for an excused absence. Any unexcused absences will result in 0 points for participation that week.

Weekly Assignments (35% of final grade)

There are seven weekly assignments for this class, worth 5 points each. Due dates are noted in the Course Outline section of the syllabus. Guidelines will be discussed at length in class.

Midterm: Development Notes & Packaging Report (20% of final grade)

For the midterm project, each student will prepare a set of revised development notes to be delivered to the writer(s) for a rewrite. In addition, each student is required to submit a packaging report for their project which includes directors, actors (3-4 major leading roles min.), producers/production companies, showrunners (if applicable), casting directors, department heads and vendors (if applicable) in order to begin to build out the creative elements of their thesis script. Guidelines will be further discussed at length in class.

Final: Thesis Project Pitch & Revised Creative Report (25% of final grade)

For the final project, each student will craft and present a professional pitch (~10-20 minutes) based on their selected screenplay/teleplay for their thesis project. Each student will also be required to submit a creative report for their selected screenplays that includes (but is not limited to): revised development notes, revised packaging lists, production plans, and marketing & distribution plans, a one-sheet and a publicity strategy. Guidelines will be further discussed at length in class.

Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change is to be made, it will be thoroughly addressed during class and disseminated via email.

Generative AI Use Prohibited

Generative AI tools are trained on existing texts, algorithms, and models to generate content like writing, images, and videos based on prompts from users. ChatGPT, Midjourney, Google Bard, and DALL-E are examples of generative AI tools. Please refrain from using generative AI in this course for any purpose. We will be developing skills that are important to practice on your own and using generative AI may inhibit development, practice, or understanding of those skills. During class, we will discuss how and why generative AI may disrupt your learning.

If you're unsure if a specific tool makes use of AI, or if a specific tool is permitted for use on assignments in this course, please contact me. Attempting to pass off AI-generated work as your own will violate [DePaul's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions

The health and safety of everyone at DePaul depend on the cooperation of all who come to campus. By taking care of yourself, you protect the entire community. DePaul's COVID-19 response plans are based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the university's medical advisor from AMITA Health.

Mandatory protocols must be followed by DePaul students, faculty and staff at all times on both campuses <https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/guidance/health-safetypractices/Pages/default.aspx>.

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore "what must be done" in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at

<http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus - Lewis Center #1420 - (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus - Student Center #370 - (773) 325-1677

Students can also email the office at csd@depaul.edu

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

University Counseling Services

DePaul University Counseling Services (UCS) is committed to providing a range of culturally aware and sensitive clinical services to help currently enrolled DePaul students remove barriers to academic and personal success by addressing emotional, psychological, and interpersonal concerns through multiple treatment modalities. Services offered include: group counseling, individual counseling, couples counseling, crisis management, consultation, referrals, and telereach/outreach workshops. All services are currently being offered on a virtual, remote basis with no fees due to COVID-19. To connect with the counseling center, contact our main number at (773) 325-7779 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) to schedule an initial consultation, which is typically scheduled within 1-2 business days of your call.

If you need more immediate assistance or are in acute distress, you can call the main number during regular business hours and ask to speak with a counselor. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room. The Counseling Services staff has extensive experience with providing support services to individuals of varying social identities and backgrounds. Further, our counselors know that commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and anti-racism is an ongoing and open-ended journey and, as such, our counselors frequently and regularly engage in self-reflection and training opportunities to increase cultural awareness and to challenge one's own privileges and biases.