



## Course Schedule

FMT121 - Spring 2021

Week	Date	Topic	Due on This Day
Week 1	1/28	Course Overview/Intros  Lecture on Basic Story Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas vs. Stories</li> <li>• The Lesson</li> <li>• Cause &amp; Effect Chain Reaction</li> <li>• Movie Operating System (MOS)</li> </ul>	Complete Course Acknowledgement (in-class)  Semester Start Questionnaire
Week 2	2/04	Lecture on Developing Character: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Conflict = Fear + Desire</li> <li>• Flaw/ed Worldview</li> <li>• Stakes</li> <li>• Tension = Hopes vs. Fear</li> </ul>	Watch Coco & Complete MOS Questionnaire  Quiz 1: Story Theory/MOS
Week 3	2/11	Lecture on Structure Overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Acts</li> <li>• 8 Sequences</li> <li>• 5 Plot Points</li> <li>• Beat&gt;Scene&gt;Sequence&gt;Act</li> <li>• “In a Heartbeat” Viewing</li> </ul> Review: Coco MOS	Character Analysis  Extra Credit: Office Hour Meeting made by Today
Week 4	2/18	Lecture on Making Your Movie Stories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loglines</li> <li>• Synopses</li> <li>• Ethical Storytelling</li> <li>• Universal Specificity</li> <li>• Coming Up w/ High Concepts</li> </ul> Review: Booksmart Analysis	Read Booksmart & Complete 8 Sequence Analysis  Quiz 2: Structure

Week 5	2/25	<p>Lecture on “The Beginning”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act 1</li> <li>• Sequences A+B</li> <li>• Inciting Incident + Lock-in</li> <li>• The Hook</li> </ul> <p>Lecture on Genre</p> <p>Workshop: Loglines</p>	<p>Loglines + Synopses Due</p> <p>Online Discussion #1</p>
Week 6	3/04	<p>Lecture on “The Middle (part 1)”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act 2a</li> <li>• Sequences C+D</li> <li>• Midpoint</li> </ul> <p>Lecture on Tension Tools</p>	<p>Read Get Out &amp; Complete 8 Sequence Analysis</p>
Week 7	3/11	<p>Lecture on “The Middle (part 2)”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act 2b</li> <li>• Sequences E+F</li> <li>• Second Culmination/PP2</li> </ul> <p>Lecture on Subplots</p> <p>Lecture on “How to Write Coverage”</p>	<p>Character Interviews</p> <p>1-on-1 Office Hour made between 2/25-3/10</p> <p>Online Discussion #2 (complete after 1-on-1)</p>
Week 8	3/18	<p><b><u>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</u></b></p>	<p>Similar Film to Mine Analysis</p>
Week 9	3/25	<p>Lecture on “The End”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act 3</li> <li>• Sequences G+H</li> <li>• Climax</li> </ul> <p>Lecture on Subtext</p>	<p>Coverage Assignment</p>
Week 10	4/1	<p>Lecture on Developing Scenes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposition/Hook</li> <li>• Confrontation/Question</li> <li>• Resolution/Climax</li> <li>• Scene Purpose + Intention</li> <li>• Charge Change (+/-)</li> </ul>	<p>Online Discussion #3</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showing vs. telling</li> <li>• Cause &amp; Effect</li> <li>• Scene running</li> </ul>	
Week 11	4/8	Lecture on Script Formatting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scene Headers</li> <li>• Action</li> <li>• Dialogue</li> <li>• Character</li> <li>• Parenthetical</li> <li>• Translate Character Interview</li> </ul>	Story Treatment (Optional Revision due by 4/22)
Week 12	4/15	Lecture on TV Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV versus Movies</li> <li>• TV Episodic Structure: One-Hour Dramas vs. Sitcoms</li> <li>• Developing Season Arcs and the ongoing "Story Engine"</li> </ul> Small Group Writers Room Activity	
Week 13	4/22	Opening Scene Mini-Presentations  Workshop: Opening Scene	Quiz: TV Writing  Opening Scene Mini-Presentations
Week 14	4/29	Workshop: Act 1 Step Outline  Check-in Meetings	Act 1 Step Outline
Week 15	5/6	Lecture on Media Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video Games</li> <li>• Reality TV</li> <li>• Commercials</li> <li>• Shorts</li> </ul>	
<b>Finals Week</b>	5/13	SCRIPT TABLE READINGS	Write 'Sequence A' Script Pages (15-17 pages)