

**ENG 139B: INTERMEDIATE SCREENWRITING**  
**Summer 2008**  
**Class: M, T, Th 1:45 – 4:15 PM**  
**Instructor: Marc Weinberg**  
**Office: Rabb 226**  
**marceweinberg@hotmail.com**

**Screenplay sites: Drew's Script-O-Rama**  
**[script-o-rama.com/snazzy/dircut.html](http://script-o-rama.com/snazzy/dircut.html)**

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Screenplay: Writing the Picture by Robin U. Russin & William Downs

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to reinforce and further develop your screenwriting skills, and have you write as much of your screenplay as possible.

### **COURSE DESIGN**

This class is both workshop and lecture. You will discuss films, and write frequently. These assignments will be reviewed in class, meaning you will receive criticism of your work, and critique classmates' work.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- All work must be typed, using proper screenplay format, and include a cover page with your name, date and assignment.
- All work must be proofread for grammar, spelling errors and typos.
- You must keep up with all readings, as well as watch assigned movies.

### **GRADING**

Participation in class will account for 20% of your grade. The rest of your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

1. A 30-40 beat outline, containing your script's most important scenes (20% of your grade).
2. 50+ pages of a feature script. (60% of your grade).

### **DAY 1 (MONDAY, 7/7/08)**

- Introduction
- In-class assignment

*Students A, B, C will email their first acts to the class tonight*

*TUESDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 1  
See "The Incredibles."*

**DAY 2 (TUESDAY, 7/8/08)**

- Discuss How to Impress a Reader
- Discuss "The Incredibles."
- In-class assignment

*Students D, E, F will email their first acts to the class tonight*

*THURSDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 2 & 6  
Pitch two ideas for a screenplay*

**DAY 3 (THURSDAY, 7/10/08)**

- Discuss Format and Structure
- Pitch your ideas to the class. Class picks one idea.
- In-class assignment

*Students G, H, I will email their first acts to the class tonight*

*MONDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read and see "Gladiator"  
Read Chapters 3 & 4  
Identify and discuss your script's act breaks, midpoint, and climax.*

**DAY 4 (MONDAY, 7/14/08)**

- Discuss Theme and Story
- Discuss "Gladiator"
- Discuss A, B, & C's pages

*Students A, B, C will email pages to the class tonight*

*TUESDAY'S ASSIGNMENT:*

**DAY 5 (TUESDAY, 7/15/08)**

- Discuss D, E, & F's pages
- In-class writing assignment

*Students D, E, F will email pages to the class tonight*

*THURSDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 5  
See "A Simple Plan."  
Read and prepare notes on pages*

**DAY 6 (THURSDAY, 7/17/08)**

- Discuss G, H, & I's pages
- Discuss Character
- Discuss "A Simple Plan."

*Students G, H, I will email pages to the class tonight*

*MONDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapters 7 & 8  
Read and see "The Talented Mr. Ripley"*

### **DAY 7 (MONDAY, 7/21/08)**

- Discuss A, B, & C's pages
- Discuss Conflict & Beats, Scenes & Sequences
- Discuss "The Talented Mr. Ripley"

*Students A, B, C will email pages to the class tonight*

### **DAY 8 (TUESDAY, 7/22/08)**

- Discuss D, E, & F's pages

*Students D, E, F will email pages to the class tonight*

*THURSDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 9 & 10  
See "Shattered Glass."*

### **DAY 9 (THURSDAY, 7/24/08)**

- Discuss G, H, & I's pages
- Discuss Scene Cards and Entering the Story
- Discuss "Shattered Glass."

*Students G, H, I will email pages to the class tonight*

*MONDAY'S ASSIGNMENT: Read Chapter 11  
Read and see "Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind"*

### **DAY 10 (MONDAY, 7/28/08)**

- Discuss A, B, & C's pages
- Discuss The Structure of Genres
- Discuss "Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind"

*Students A, B, C will email pages to the class tonight*

### **DAY 11 (TUESDAY, 7/29/08)**

- Discuss D, E, & F's pages

*Students D, E, F will email pages to the class tonight*

**THURSDAY NIGHT'S ASSIGNMENT:**  
*Read Chapter 12*

**DAY 12 (THURSDAY, 7/31/08)**

- Discuss G, H, & I's pages
- Discuss Narrative

*Students G, H, I will email pages to the class tonight*

**MONDAY'S ASSIGNMENT:** *Read Chapters 13 & 14*  
*See "Borat"*

**ASSIGNMENT DUE IN 2 WEEKS: FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE, THURSDAY, 8/14.**

**DAY 13 (MONDAY, 8/4/08)**

- Discuss A, B, & C's pages
- Discuss Dialogue and Rewriting
- Discuss "Borat"

**DAY 14 (TUESDAY, 8/5/08)**

- Discuss D, E, & F's pages

**THURSDAY'S ASSIGNMENT:** *Read Chapters 15 & 16*

**DAY 15 (THURSDAY, 8/7/08)**

- Discuss G, H, & I's pages
- Discuss Marketing the Script and The Pitch
- Summary

***FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE NEXT THURSDAY, 8/14/08, noon. Please deliver your pages to the Brandeis English Department (Rabb 144).***