

**CS 337: Developing and Preproducing the Short Film
Class and Assignment Schedule**

Fall 2000

Date	#	Class Topic	Assignment
Mon Sep 11	1	Introductions. What is a story? What is the writer's approach to the story? Close reading of Fight Club intro.	List five stories that resonate with you, including the name of the creator/writer of each. Then, write one paragraph on each describing the resonance. Why does each appeal to you? Typed, due next class. Also, buy and bring a writer's notebook.
Mon Sep 18	2	Review resonant stories. Introduction to idea development, brainstorming for ideas. Sources and log lines. Structure I.	DUE THURS BY 3:30pm: 15 log lines from different sources: 3 family stories, 3 from news, 4 from dreams/myth/parody, 5 from brainstorm exercises.
Mon Sep 25	3	Review log lines, pick one to develop. Structure II – filling out the story. Complexity.	DUE THURS BY 3:30pm: Treatment of the log line you chose.
Mon Oct 2	4	Workshop treatments in two groups. Introduce screenplay format.	DUE next class: First draft of screenplay. Bring two copies.
Mon Oct 9		NO CLASS (October break)	
Mon Oct 16	5	Dialogue in detail. Revise “bad” dialogue in class. How to write subtext. How to revise.	DUE NEXT CLASS: 8 copies of second draft of screenplay.
Mon Oct 23	6	Hand in second drafts and workshop them in class. After the workshop, vote for favorites.	SIGN UP FOR A TIME THIS WEEK to apply for a particular role on a film.
Mon Oct 30	7	Announce preproduction teams. Introduction to storyboarding, story reels, shot language, staging. Break into teams at end of class.	DUE NEXT CLASS: first internal reel to show producer. Pick key sequence and get it digital.
Mon Nov 6	8	Going from script to visuals. Exposition-based staging. Close reading of The Big Story. Screenings with producers/team meetings.	DUE NEXT CLASS: second internal reel to show producer.
Mon Nov 13	9	Moving beyond expositional staging decisions to interesting ones. Screenings with producers/team meetings.	DUE NEXT CLASS: first external reel to show entire class.
Mon Nov 20	10	Reel screening and workshop with entire class.	DUE NEXT CLASS: third internal reel, incorporating audience comments.
Mon Nov 27	11	Connections between shots. Editing. Screenings with producers/team meetings.	DUE NEXT CLASS: second and final external reel, on videotape.
Mon Dec 4	12	Last day of class. Hand in and screen scenes on video, hand in final screenplay too.	DUE BY MONDAY DEC 11: independent final paper discussing your contribution to the final reel, also self-evaluation.

* This syllabus is subject to change! Make sure to check with the instructors or other students if you miss a class because the assignments may differ from those listed here.