Screenwriting Arts, B.A.

The major in screenwriting arts draws on the long and historic creative writing tradition at the University of Iowa by expanding undergraduate offerings to include a program in screenwriting. Students are instructed on practical skills and knowledge needed to become successful members of the screenwriting industry, but they also learn about the history and theories related to screenwriting, encouraging writing and the production of cinema to rise to the level of art.

Learning Outcomes

Screenwriting arts students achieve nine learning outcomes within three major areas:

Obtaining Foundational Understanding and Skills
- Finding and forming ideas
- Learning research methods to enhance creativity
- Understanding the history and genres of narrative forms and styles
- Learning the history of world cinema and film language

Executing, Developing, and Completing Screenplay Projects
- Step-by-step screenwriting models
- Editing, workshopping, and revising screenwriting drafts

Practical Skills and Screen Industry Knowledge
- Oral communication skills
- Filmmaking processes including sound, cinematography, editing, and directing
- Business and industrial dimensions through networking and building communities

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in screenwriting arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 42 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must earn a minimum of 30 s.h. for the major at the University of Iowa, with at least 15 s.h. in cinematic arts courses (prefix CINE) taken at the University of Iowa. A maximum of 56 s.h. may be taken in Department of Cinematic Arts courses (prefix CINE).

Students may earn a minor in cinema. They must complete at least 12 s.h. in courses offered by the Department of Cinematic Arts that are not required for the screenwriting arts major. A maximum of 3 s.h. may count for both the cinema minor and the screenwriting arts major.

Screenwriting arts students may earn a cinema major if the requirements for each major are met. Both majors require CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis (3 s.h.) and CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (4 s.h.). Those two courses are required for both majors and are prerequisites for other key courses in the major. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in each of these courses.

Internship Opportunities

The major does not require an internship, but an internship (CINE:1185 Internship) is an elective course option (see "Elective Courses" below). The Department of Cinematic Arts strongly encourages students to participate in internships and related activities.

The B.A. with a major in screenwriting arts requires the following coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All of these: Foundations of Screenwriting (with a grade of C or higher)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Film Analysis (with a grade of C or higher)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Modes of Film and Video Production (with a grade of C or higher)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Film Reviews and Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screenwriting Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screenwriting: Short Form</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screenwriting: Long Form</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Screenwriting I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Screenwriting II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Courses

Students must complete a minimum of 9 s.h. from the following list of electives that includes related courses on writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or other genres, and on production, acting, and directing. Many of these courses are repeatable for credit, allowing students to focus on a single genre or production experience, if they choose to. Some of these courses have prerequisites; students must complete all of a course’s prerequisites before they may register for that course. Students should confer with their advisor before they choose elective coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Film Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cinematic Arts
CINE:2620  U.S. Film  3
CINE:2623  Introduction to Documentary Film  3
CINE:2868  Film/Video Production: Fiction  3
CINE:3080  Film/Video Production: The Business of Filmmaking  3
CINE:3195  Undergraduate Seminar  3
CINE:3315  Topics in Screenwriting  3
CINE:3750  Topics in Cinema and Culture  3
CINE:4198  Honors Project I  3
CINE:4199  Honors Project II  3
CINE:4618  Topics in World Cinemas  3
CINE:4620  Topics in Film Form, Style, and Theory  3
CINE:4845  Film/Video Production: Editing  4
CINE:4890  Media Production Workshop  4


COMM:2065  Television Criticism  3
COMM:2069/ AFAM:2070  Black Television Culture  3
COMM:2077  Writing and Producing Television  3

CW:1800  Creative Writing Studio Workshop (if not used as a foundation course)  3
CW:2100  Creative Writing  3
CW:2870  Fiction Writing  3
CW:2875  Poetry Writing  3
CW:3003  Writing and Reading Science Fiction  3
CW:3210/ INTD:3210  Creative Writing and the Natural World  3
CW:3215/ INTD:3300  Creative Writing and Popular Culture  3
CW:3870  Advanced Fiction Writing  3
CW:3875  Advanced Poetry Writing  3
CW:4745/ WRIT:4745  The Sentence: Strategies for Writing  3
CW:4751  Creative Writing for the Musician  3
CW:4760/ WRIT:4760  The Art of Revision: Rewriting Prose for Clarity and Impact  3

English

Code  Title  Hours
CNW:1620  Introduction to Creative Nonfiction (if not used as a foundation course)  3
CNW:2680  The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction  3
CNW:2700  The Art and Craft of Personal Writing  3
CNW:3632/ WRIT:3632  Prose Style  3
ENGL:4720  Advanced Creative Writing: Special Topic  3
ENGL:4721  Advanced Writers' Seminar: Fiction  3
ENGL:4722  Advanced Writers' Seminar: Poetry  3
ENGL:4723  Advanced Writers' Seminar: Nonfiction  3

Theatre Arts

Code  Title  Hours
THTR:2301  Playwriting I (if not used as a foundation course)  3
THTR:3301  Playwriting II  3
THTR:3310  Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop  1-3
THTR:3320  Writing for Film  3
THTR:4180  Directing I  3

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all UI coursework and a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in all cinematic arts coursework.

Once a student has earned 75 s.h., the student submits a written proposal for a honors thesis, screenwriting, or production project. The proposal must be approved by the faculty member who heads the student’s honors thesis/project committee; the committee must be composed of at least two faculty members from the Department of Cinematic Arts. For more specific honors thesis/project requirements, including required courses, contact the Department of Cinematic Arts or visit the department’s Honors in Cinematic Arts web page.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the screenwriting arts major.
Career Advancement

Screenwriting arts majors find employment as writers in the entertainment field, including filmmaking as well as television, marketing, advertising, public relations, and other related areas that specialize in communication through words and images. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes in the Occupational Outlook Handbook that occupations for writers are expected to grow by eight percent over the next decade. Related occupations such as public relations will grow at around 10 percent as well as positions in advertising, promotions, and marketing. Students who study screenwriting will possess the knowledge and skills needed for entry into these related positions.

Screenwriting arts students benefit from the University of Iowa’s status as a renowned writing university. In addition to panels with faculty members, current students, and alumni working in the industry that the Department of Cinematic Arts helps organize, as well as a wealth of internship opportunities at the University of Iowa and surrounding areas, students also have the option to enroll in CINE:3310 Screenwriting Studies, which addresses career opportunities for screenwriters (e.g., labs, workshops, fellowships) and CINE:3080 Film/Video Production: The Business of Filmmaking, a course devoted to careers in cinema.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least five courses in the major, including CINE:1300 Foundations of Screenwriting (with a grade of C or higher), CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis (with a grade of C or higher), CINE:1834 Modes of Film and Video Production (with a grade of C or higher), CNW:1620 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction or CW:1800 Creative Writing Studio Workshop or THTR:2301 Playwriting I, and one required elective course.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least four more courses in the major (total of nine), including CINE:2600 Writing Film Reviews and Criticism, CINE:3361 Screenwriting: Short Form, CINE:3367 Screenwriting: Long Form, and CINE:3310 Screenwriting Studies.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least three more courses in the major, including CINE:4377 Advanced Screenwriting I and one required elective course.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, including CINE:4378 Advanced Screenwriting II, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.