

**Department of Cinema/Television**  
**MFA Script & Screenwriting**  
**Program Requirements**

**Program Requirements**

UNIV LIB University Library Information Course (no credit, fee based, online)

**Residency**

Our program offers a limited residency option for the MFA in Script & Screenwriting. Those admitted to this option must attend at least one week-long summer residency (registered under the SSW 680 MFA Practicum) during their progress through the program.

**Required Courses for the script & screenwriting major**

**CTV 505 Aesthetics for the Contemporary Communicator** .....3

Aesthetic experience in various media, including the relationships between morality and art, between beauty and truth seen through the lens of the Christian faith, provide an emergent media literacy.

**CTV 600 Theory & Criticism of Cinema-Television** .....3

Analysis of cinema and television; from the early realists-formalist to auteur, genre, reception, semiotic, feminist, psycho-analytic, Marxist and deconstructive theories as they apply to both film and television research. Students will complete the course with the understanding of how to apply these theories to all types of television and cinematic texts.

**\*SELECT ONE**

**CTV 602 History of American Cinema 1** .....3

Historical survey of the development of narrative American cinema from the early days to the denouement of silent film in the late 1920s, followed by the development of sound and the Golden Age of the studio system in the 1930s through the 1950s. Investigate the aesthetic, technological, economic and sound dimensions of the classical Hollywood narrative film. May be taken online if student can verify access to the required films.

**CTV 603 History of American Cinema 2** .....3

Historical survey of narrative American cinema from the decline of the studio system and the abolition of the production code through the turbulent 1960s, the complacent 1970s and the conservative 1980s. The rise of the new independents and the reliance on blockbuster movies is studied in the context of the continuing revolution in delivery systems including made-for-cable movies, pay-per-view, home video rentals and international markets. May be taken online if student can verify access to the films required.

**CTV 604 Redemptive Cinema** .....3

Historical/critical investigation of the production of religious films both for specialized evangelistic and didactic purposes, as well as the religious dimensions of the secular film industry. Study for the latter will focus on the works of Bergman, Bresson and Dryer and modern ethical Hollywood directors such as Allen, Spielberg and Beresford. May be taken online if student can verify access to the films required.

**SCA 628 Leadership Issues in Media** .....3

Leadership and communication theory specifically applied to media industry environments in an effort to prepare students for executive and management positions upon graduation.

<b>SSW 510 Story Structure for Stage &amp; Screen</b> .....	3
Examines the structural components of plays and film scripts. Character development studied in relation to structure. Scenarios, treatments and a substantial amount of creative writing realized as the students work toward the development of a full-length work.	
<b>SSW 511 Playwriting</b> .....	3
An exploration of the structural, thematic and character techniques in writing plays for the stage from the sketch to the full-length play. Emphasis is placed on developing a “theatrical” knowledge of conventions and imagery that is the exclusive realm of the live theatre experience from a writing standpoint.	
<b>SSW 512 Writing the Short Film</b> .....	3
Examination of the special circumstance of the short film script (less than 45 minutes running time). Students learn the narrative conventions of this format and write two film scripts through multiple drafts.	
<b>SSW 514 Writing for Television</b> .....	3
An analysis of the structural components of a variety of TV narrative program forms, such as situation comedies and hour-long dramas. Includes survey of markets and pitching techniques.	
<b>SSW 612 Feature Film Scriptwriting</b> .....	3
Builds upon the skills of SSW 510 Story Structure for Stage and Screen. Skills course that guides from the idea through treatment and step-outline to a finished first draft and the marketing of both the script and the writer. Special consideration given to format, story narration and dialogue polishing.	
<b>SSW 614 Topics in Scriptwriting</b> .....	3
Various topics involving the writing of scripts for the screen, stage, or other media. Topics will be based on the strengths and interests of the instructor. Topics include, but are not limited to, narrative adaptation, genre writing, and writing for the Internet. May be repeated when topics vary.	
<b>SSW 680 MFA Practicum</b> .....	2-6
All MFA students are required to complete a minimum of 3 credit hours of SSW 680. Consists of regular meetings with a faculty mentor to work on script and screenwriting projects. A maximum of credit hours of SSW 680 can be applied to the minimum 44 credit hours needed to complete the MFA program.	
<b>SSW 698 Portfolio</b> .....	3 min.
All MFA students are required to complete a minimum of 4 credit hours of SSW 698. Consists of a specialized script and screenwriting project in your area of interest. After successfully completing all required coursework, enroll in two credit hours of SSW 698 each semester until completion the program. A maximum of 6 credit hours of SSW 698 can be applied to the minimum 44 credit hours needed to complete the MFA program.	

***Electives:***

<b>Critical Studies Elective</b> .....	3 min
<b>General Elective</b> .....	6 min

\*Students who want to emphasize writing for theatre may take THE 600 History & Literature of the Theatre or THE 604 Theories of Acting & Directing in lieu of either CTV 602 or CTV 603.