

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

THFM-2612-050: Script and Small Screen (3 credit hours)

Term: Winter 2025
Time and Time Slot: Monday 6pm to 9pm
Room: 1L04
Office Hours: by appointment

Professor: Dr. Jonathan Ball
Office: 2A32
Phone: N/A
Email: j.ball@uwinnipeg.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Delivery: In-person with additional material available on Nexus

This course will investigate the narrative techniques employed by recent television series and serials. Our investigation will focus on scene structure, episode structure, act breaks, and seasonal arcs as well as the similarities and differences between the two formats and between comedy and drama.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Nexus course access is required to submit assignments and complete this course. Zoom software is required for instructor meetings or in the event a class needs to be held online. Students will require a Netflix account.

REQUIRED SHOWS

These shows must be watched outside of class. They are available on Netflix.

- Breaking Bad — Season 1
• Trailer Park Boys — Season 1

Specific episodes of these shows, and of additional shows, will be screened in-class. However, students are responsible for watching these seasons fully on their own time.

EVALUATION

Assignment 1: Test (January 27) 30%

This multiple-choice online test will require you to answer 30 questions about the assigned tv shows, lectures, and course video content.

Assignment 2: Scripted Scene (February 10)..... 30%

You will be required to write a new, original scene that could be inserted into one of the assigned series, in standard screenplay format.

Assignment 3: Show Proposal (March 31) 40%

You will be required to create an original story and write a feature film treatment. Assignment 3 may be completed in groups or individually. All members of a group will receive the same grade.

TOTAL..... 100%

Late assignments will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0% (F).

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0% (F).

DEFINITIONS OF GRADING DESCRIPTIONS

A+ Exceptional. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill AND great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Superior. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill OR great originality in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A- Excellent. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good. Good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Satisfactory. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C Competent. Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Satisfactory. Minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

F Failing. Unsatisfactory knowledge of concepts and/or techniques, which does not satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course. Late or missed assignments will be given a failing grade.

Important Calendar Dates. The dates the University is closed for holidays, irrespective of campus closure related to COVID-19:

Feb. 17-21	Winter Mid-Term Reading Week
Feb. 17	Louis Riel Day
April 18	Good Friday

For a complete list of important dates, please visit
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/dates.html>

Voluntary Withdrawal Date. The final date to withdrawal without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2025 and end in April 2025 is March 14, 2025.

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

Students are encouraged to contact instructors before withdrawing in case they can be of any help. The withdrawal date for individual courses and information on refunds is found here:
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/registration/docs/withdrawal-schedule-fw.pdf>

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre & Film are communal art forms in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people cooperate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals, meetings or shoots both within and outside of class times; and, in short, exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Human Rights and Diversity

All students are encouraged to visit the University's Human Rights and Diversity website (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/index.html>) to familiarize yourself about your rights, the University's policies, and resources in place to support you. This site includes links to the University's Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/sexual-violence-policy-and-procedures.html>), as well as resources for getting and providing support and clear steps for disclosing or reporting sexual violence.

Sexual Violence Resources on Campus

From the UW Human Rights & Diversity website:

The University takes all disclosures and reports of sexual violence seriously; survivors of all backgrounds and experiences will be treated with dignity, respect, and care. If you have experienced sexual violence, there are trained staff to help you in whatever way suits you best."

Disclosing is telling a member of the UW Community that you have experienced sexual violence. This could be someone you trust or feel comfortable with, like a professor, coach, another staff person, or a member of the Sexual Violence Response Team (**SVRT**). A disclosure can be made in order to receive support, accommodation, or to be connected to other resources. The Sexual Violence Response Team (**SVRT**) is a small team of specially trained, well-situated staff that coordinates and organizes services for survivors in a confidential manner. For example, if you personally do not feel comfortable talking to your professors about extensions or deferring work, they would be able to arrange changes for you without telling the professor why you need accommodation.

Contact SVRT by phone at 204-230-6660. [You can find more information on disclosing here.](https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/sexual-violence/get-support.html)
(<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/sexual-violence/get-support.html>)

Reporting is making a statement to the **Human Rights & Diversity Officer (HRDO)** with the intention of seeking remedy, sanction, or consequences through the university. Once a report is made, the **HRDO** will review your report and discuss your options. Your options could include an investigation process, or informal resolution (if you wish to resolve it without an investigation). The **HRDO** can still connect you with support, accommodation, or external organizations while the investigation is taking place.

You can contact the HRDO by phone at 204-988-7508 or by email at hrdo@uwinnipeg.ca.
[You can report online here »](https://uwinnipeg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ONi2EP1gcXjyBv) (https://uwinnipeg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ONi2EP1gcXjyBv)

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Should public health and university regulations require it, the schedule and content of the course may be subject to change on short notice. Every effort will be made to inform students of these changes, to deliver the course content in the best way possible under the circumstances, and to evaluate students fairly.

HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending on-campus lectures and labs. Exposure to perfumes and other **scented products (such as lotion)** can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

During the FW terms, the Department of Theatre and Film presents a series of lectures held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20). This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. and are open to all students. The speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Lectures will take place in-person in the Theatre, Wednesday 12:30 – 13:20 on the following dates in the Winter term(subject to change):

- **12:30 pm Wednesday, January 22, 2025 Dasha Plett: Sound design: what it is and what to listen for**
- **12:30 pm Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Ann Hodges: Meet the new AD of Prairie Theatre Exchange**

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE FOR SENIOR AND HONOURS STUDENTS: Attendance at EVERY lecture is mandatory for ALL Honours students in Theatre (that is, anyone taking 4000-level courses in any area), as well as students in THFM-3101 Acting III Advanced Practice, THFM-3110 Screen Acting, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II. Sign-in sheets are posted outside the theatre before each lecture.

All students are encouraged to attend these fun and informative lectures. Please see our department website regularly for information.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Held every September, our *THFM Orientation Assembly* in the Theatre welcomes students to the new term; introduces our new students to faculty and other students; provides information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors, TAFSA, and the UWSA; and delivers news about what's coming up.

ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED AND WELCOME TO ATTEND!

TAFSA

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association.

TAFSA offers lively social interaction for U of W students, to ensure their academic career is as fun and memorable as possible! TAFSA aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment where Theatre and Film students can meet and enjoy shared interests. TAFSA's mission is to bring Theatre and Film students together, improve student life and enjoyment, and advocate for students. TAFSA also hosts events where students can network and showcase their skills.

Please find out more at TAFSA's meetings, held every second Monday in the Fall/Winter terms from 12:30-13:20 pm. It's a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events. Visit the TFSA Instagram account at **@tafsauw** or email them at [tfsa.uw@hotmail.com](mailto:tafsa.uw@hotmail.com).

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building (students, faculty and community renters) **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes must have a UW ID card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

When the external ACTF doors are locked, access to the building is through Security using the video intercom at the building entrance to the left of the front door.

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

All interior studios and labs are locked outside of building hours. Evening and weekend access can be added to your student card by visiting Melinda in the Department office, 3T03.

SECURITY PHONE (General, non-emergency, Safe Walk and Safe Ride): 204-786-9272
SECURITY EMERGENCY NUMBER: 204-786-6666

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film is equipped two phones (one by the House Manager's office in the lobby, one in the basement by the elevator) to contact Security.

Students are encouraged to visit the UW Security Services webpage for complete information about campus security and emergency procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/security/index.html> and to download the UW Safe App: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/security/uw-safe-app.html>.

ONLINE CLASSES

Instructors whose mode of delivery includes Zoom or a similar platform will clarify expectations for appropriate remote classroom behaviour or decorum (e.g., being on time, muting/unmuting, raising hand, reacting, etc.), and make appropriate allowances in order to respect the privacy of students (e.g., clarifying need to have video on/off).

Performance classes online: No eating, chewing gum, or wearing a mask during on-line work.

RECORDING ON-LINE CLASSES

Should a class be held online, the instructor may choose to record a zoom or video class if there are online connectivity issues, absences, or to post to Nexus for later review. If a lecture is recorded, students will be given notice (via the course outline or on a case-by-case basis) that their personal information may be captured; informed of how long the recording will be retained; and whether the recording will be used for evaluation of any kind. Students will also be given the option to turn off their cameras/microphones and use pseudonyms to remain anonymous (except where class participation is required).

Students with concerns or who wish to seek alternate arrangements may discuss the matter with the instructor. Access to recordings will be limited to the academic staff, students, and others with a legitimate need. Recordings containing student personal information will not be posted publicly, but only on UW-approved servers.

No student is allowed to disseminate recordings outside of the class or post recordings publicly. Access to the recordings will be limited to the instructor and the students.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Department Website: <https://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca> or <https://film.uwinnipeg.ca>

Please refer to the website for department information, but particularly regarding:

Fire and Safety Information for ACTF: Students must check our website and review the [Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film](https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film/docs/fire-evacuation-procedures_2020.pdf) (https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film/docs/fire-evacuation-procedures_2020.pdf) and [Access Card/Building Use Policy](https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film/rentals/access-card-and-building-use-policy.html) (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film/rentals/access-card-and-building-use-policy.html>).

Room Bookings for Class Assignment Work: Students may book rehearsal room space class-related work or outside projects. Priority will be given to class assignment work. Please see our website links to *Room Booking Instructions* and electronic *Online Room Booking Form* found on our department website at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film/rentals/access-card-and-building-use-policy.html>. Please read and note all instructions carefully. Room booking availability is subject to change according to public health and university policies.

GENERAL NOTES

- **Students should check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses daily as this is the most direct way instructors and the University will contact students regarding such things as important information about health and safety, policies and registration, and Faculty will contact you about changes to class schedules, cancelled classes, etc.**
- **This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.**
- Archival records such as video/sound recordings and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, they should withdraw from this course immediately.
- Unless necessary for accessing class, cellular phones should be turned off during classes and examinations. Texting is not permitted in class.
- Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.
- It is the student's responsibility to retain a paper or digital copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via UWinnipeg webmail (and/or using the preferred form of communication,

as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean. **Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.**

- Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holydays of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-24 Undergraduate Academic Calendar:
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>
 - Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
 - Reference to the appropriate items in the Regulations & Policies section of the *Course Calendar*, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Instructors should become familiar with the procedures for dealing with alleged academic misconduct at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>
 - All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/>.
 - **Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity.** Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please emphasize the importance of maintaining academic integrity and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even unintentional plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct. Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves aiding and abetting plagiarism. An updated and expanded U of Winnipeg library site outlining principles of Academic Integrity can be found at <https://library.uwinnipeg.ca/use-the-library/help-with-research/academic-integrity.html>.
- Important information is outlined in the Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>.
- **Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools.** Students must follow principles of academic integrity (e.g., honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility) in their use of material obtained through AI text-generating tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Notion AI). If an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments.

If AI tools are permitted, students must cite them. According to the MLA (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>), “you should:

- a. cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it
- b. acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location
- c. take care to vet the secondary sources it cites”

If students aren’t sure whether or not they can use AI tools, they should ask their professors.

- **Respectful Learning Environment.** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies could be considered non-academic misconduct. See the Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>) and Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>). More detailed information is outlined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- **Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor’s intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non- Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright policy <https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/basics/copyright-policy.html>
- **Research Ethics.** Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/ethics/human-ethics.html>
- **Privacy.** Students should be reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)
- The University of Winnipeg affirms the importance of student mental health and our commitment to providing accessible, culturally appropriate, and effective services for students. Students who are seeking mental health supports are encouraged to reach out to the Wellness Centre at studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca or 204.988.7611. For community-based mental health resources

and supports, students are encouraged to dial 2-1-1. This program of United Way is available 24/7 in 150 languages.

2024-25 VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES

The voluntary withdrawal dates for 2024-25, without academic penalty:

- **November 13, 2024** for Fall courses which begin in September 2024 and end in December 2024
- **February 14, 2024** for Fall/Winter courses which begin September 2024 and end in April 2025
- **March 14, 2025** for Winter courses which begin in January 2025 and end in April 2025

Students are encouraged to speak to the Instructor before withdrawing to explore other options.

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

2024-25 CAMPUS CLOSURE DATES

The University is closed for the following holidays:

- September 2 (Labour Day)
- September 30 (Truth and Reconciliation Day)
- October 14 (Thanksgiving Day)
- November 11 (Remembrance Day)
- December 23 through January 1
- February 17 (Louis Riel Day)
- April 18 (Good Friday)

2024-25 READING WEEKS

- Fall mid-term reading week is October 14-18, 2024
- Winter mid-term reading week is February 17-21, 2025

THFM DEPARTMENT OFFICE INFORMATION

3T03 (3rd Floor, Asper Centre for Theatre and Film)

Office Manager/Student Advisor: Melinda Tallin

204-786-9955

m.tallin@uwinnipeg.ca