*An Introduction to Screenwriting*

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Screenwriting is a very exacting form of writing. It has been likened to writing a 120-page haiku, and like that very demanding type of poetry, there are specific rules and structural protocols in screenwriting that must be understood and adhered to for the script to be successful. In this six-week course, you will get an introduction to the very specific craft of screenwriting and will build a solid foundation on a screenplay of your own.

Course Syllabus

* Week 1:
  + What is a screenplay…really?
  + What should I write about?
  + Where do I start?
  + What are the two most important things every screenplay must have right out of the box?
  + Theme, Premise, Story, Plot, and Sub-Plot: What are they and do I need all of them?
* Week 2:
  + Classic Screenplay Structure
  + The Beginning, the Middle, and the End: Every part of a screenplay has them
  + Scene Structure
    - What every scene must do.
    - Getting in late, getting out early
* Week 3:
  + Characters: Protagonists, Antagonists, Mentors, Allies, Shapeshifters: Who and what are they?
  + How to create characters that truly “live”
  + Point of View: Whose story is it? And who’s telling it?
  + Voice: How is the story told?
* Week 4:
  + Setting: Where am I? How do I make this “place” become 3-dimensional with words?
  + The Language of Screenplays: Wordsmithing and the real currency of screenwriting
* Week 5:
  + Conflict and Drama: Without these, you have…well…nothing.
  + Pacing and Movement: Drawing the reader into and through the script
* Week 6:
  + Dialogue: Making it sound real so we see the characters, not the writing

*“Bob Bowersox’s Screenwriting course enabled me to transition my film idea for “Paper Boat” into a properly written screenplay that has grabbed the attention of investors and industry talent. His passion for the creative process and clear direction was an enormous help to me by dressing the challenges of professional screenwriting.”  
 -- Craig Hollenback, Writer/Executive Producer, “Paper Boat”*