

The Art of Storytelling: From Page to Film

HON 420 1001 Summer Session 2, Weekly Outline

Class will be held fully online with optional, in-person, small group projects

Professor Jaclyn Costello – virtual office hours by appointment; I’m very flexible on days/times but will be officially available on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:30-4. The best way to reach me is to e-mail: costello@unlv.nevada.edu
For emergencies only, text: 702.619.6219

I’m looking forward to connecting with all of you this summer! **Be sure to read this entire syllabus, including the Daily Schedule, and purchase all the required materials before the first day of class** because we’re going to jump right in once SS2 starts. Also, you will find [this web page](#) extremely helpful along your HON 420 journey.

Grade Breakdown

- 25% Virtual Attendance and Participation in Web-ex meetings
- 10% Written (or Video) Participation in Two Web-Campus Discussions
- 25% Quizzes on Books and Films (there are two quizzes total)
- 40% Final Project: a thesis-driven research essay OR a short film, documentary, or series of commercials

A is 94-100, A- is 90-93, B+ is 87-89, B is 84-86, B- is 80-83, C+ is 77-79, C is 74-76, C- is 70-73, Under that is F

Required Books + Films

Books

1) *Stories of Your Life and Others* by Ted Chiang, 2) *Room* by Emma Donoghue, 3) *Different Seasons: Four Novellas* by Stephen King, 4) *Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick

Films

These are available for free through the UNLV library by following the link found [here](#), or you may find them on your own. 1) *Arrival*, 2) *Room*, 3) *The Shawshank Redemption*, 4) *Silver Linings Playbook*

About the Final Project

Essay Option

6-8 pages, MLA formatting, relating to any topic, theme, or idea from the semester. No first person. This is a formal, thesis-driven, research essay.

You will complete 1) a thesis, 2) an outline, 3) a rough draft – which should feel FINISHED to you...but I will find things to improve upon 😊 and 4) a final draft.

Creative Option

You may choose to work in a group of two, three, or four people – or you can work alone. If you work in a group, you will all receive the same grade on the project. Regardless of the number of people you work with, you must turn in between 5-11 minutes of polished, perfected, completed footage. Your project can take the form of either a documentary, a short film, or between two-six different commercials (all must for the same “brand” or product – and your campaign must have a theme.)

You will complete: Optional step 0) your “pitch” (idea.) Required steps: 1) a screenplay, 2) a shooting script 3) a fully edited “finished” project...which I will then find things to improve upon and send back to you 😊 and 4) a final project.

Expected Learning Outcomes – UULOS

Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning

Graduates are able to understand and integrate basic principles of the humanities & fine arts and develop skills and a desire for lifelong learning. Specific outcomes for all students include:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skills in at least one major area. (Film + Literature!)
2. Identify the fundamental principles of the humanities and fine arts.
3. Apply the research methods and models of the humanities and fine arts to define, solve, and evaluate problems.
4. Demonstrate lifelong learning skills, including the ability to place problems in personally meaningful contexts; reflect on one's own understanding.
5. Achieve success in one's chosen field or discipline, including applying persistence, motivation, interpersonal communications, goal setting, and career skills.

Communication

Graduates are able to write and speak effectively to both general and specialized audiences, create effective visuals that support written or spoken communication, and use electronic media common to one's field or profession. Specific outcomes for all students include:

1. Demonstrate general academic literacy, including how to respond to the needs of audiences and to different kinds of rhetorical situations, analyze and evaluate reasons and evidence, and construct research-based arguments using Standard Written English.
2. Effectively use the common genres and conventions for writing within a particular discipline or profession.
3. Prepare and deliver effective visual/digital stories.
4. Collaborate effectively with others to share information, solve problems, or complete tasks.
5. Produce effective visuals using different media.
6. Apply the up-to-date technologies commonly used to research and communicate within one's field.

University Policies + Disability Assistance

The university policies can be found by clicking the links below:

[Academic Policies](#)

[Student Services & Activities](#)

[University Policies](#)

[University Community & Libraries](#)

Important Notes + Required Technology

Make sure the e-mail you have in MyUnlv is correct because I will be sending class e-mails using your MyUnlv e-mail.

The best way to contact me is through this e-mail: costello@unlv.nevada.edu

Other than 1) a computer with a webcam and the latest Web-ex downloaded OR a phone with the latest Web-ex app downloaded, and 2) a reliable internet connection, there is no other required technology for this class; this is because there is the option of writing a research essay for your final project. However, if you choose to create a film, documentary, or set of commercials, you will be required to have some sort of editing software (there are free or paid-for options.) Filming on your phone is fine 😊

Web-Campus Discussion Guidelines

There are multiple ways to receive Web-Campus Discussion credit. For each of the discussions this semester you may choose to either 1) begin a 3+ paragraph insight/question/connection inspired by that day's materials 2) post a 1-3 minute video response, 3) post a creative journal response 4) respond to one or more of your peers' existing posts (3+ paragraph response total.) Whichever way you choose to respond on any given day, I expect your response to have depth, sincerity, and your own unique spin! Have fun exploring the topics in this class, and have fun discussing them with your peers. Web Discussions count as 10% of your grade.

When you see Yellow on the Daily Schedule below, that means we meet on Web-ex that day, from 1-2:30, as a class. Please be ready, have clothes on (I know it's a pain...), and have no distractions around you like family members, food, text messages coming in. Remember: participation in our Web-ex discussions/lectures counts as 25% of your final grade, so please be prepared and fully engaged.

For the non-yellow days on the Daily Schedule below, you will have assignments to complete on your own or in Canvas/Web-Campus.

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Code of Student Conduct](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Daily Schedule

This can change at any time. Check your e-mail daily, and show up to our virtual classes to be kept updated.

Week One

June 7 Monday – Intro to class and each other **HW:** Watch All Sample Materials, and for each one, answer the following questions: *What made this a successful film/documentary/commercial? What did I learn about the technique of story-telling? What was the larger theme/meaning that struck a chord with me?* Write or type your responses, bring them to our class discussion tomorrow, and be prepared to share them!

June 8 Tuesday – Discuss Homework **HW:** Review Requirements for Final Project, Technical elements required, etc., and post any questions in the “Questions about Film Projects” or “Questions about Essay Project” Discussion forums. I understand you will have more detailed questions as the semester rolls on; please ask these during one of our live lectures or post them in a forum so the rest of your classmates can see the answers! About the film projects: from this point forward, it's up to you to find group members (if desired), exchange information, and get your projects going. To aid in this networking, I've created a Discussion forum called “Networking.” **ALSO for HW:** Watch *The Shawshank Redemption*

June 9 Wednesday – Discuss the Film **HW:** Begin reading *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*

June 10 Thursday – Continue reading

June 11 Friday – Finish reading **HW:** By 3 p.m. today, please post an original response OR a response to someone else's response in the discussion forum named “Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption” also, for next Tuesday, read the following stories from Ted Chiang: *Tower of Babylon*, *Understand*, & *Story of Your Life*.

Week Two

June 14 Monday – Continue reading. Network to form a group (if desired.) **HW:** By 6 p.m. tonight, e-mail me with all the names of the members in your group *or* let me know you are going to work on the film project alone *or* let me know you are choosing the research paper option. **ALSO**, for each of the short stories read, answer the following questions: *What made this a successful short story? What did I learn about the technique of story-telling? What was the larger theme/meaning that struck a chord with me?* Write or type your responses, bring them to our class discussion Wednesday, and be prepared to share them!

June 15 Tuesday – No new work assigned this day. Catch up! **HW:** Watch *Arrival*

June 16 Wednesday – Discuss Chiang's short stories + the Film **HW:** Study for Quiz

June 17 Thursday – **Quiz 1** open online from 1-2:30. **HW:** Begin *Room* + Work on Final Project

June 18 Friday – Continue Reading **HW:** Work on Final Project + By 3 p.m. on Saturday, e-mail me with your pitch (optional for film people, but highly recommended!!) or your thesis (mandatory for essay people)

Week Three

June 21 Monday – Finish Reading **HW:** answer the following questions about this book: *What made this a successful novel? What did I learn about the technique of story-telling? What was the larger theme/meaning that struck a chord with me?* Write or type your responses, bring them to our class discussion tomorrow, and be prepared to share them!

June 22 Tuesday – Discuss Book. **HW:** Watch *Room* + please post an original response OR a response to someone else's response in the discussion forum named "Room (the film)" by 3 p.m. tomorrow.

June 23 Wednesday – Begin Reading *Silver Linings Playbook* + Work on Final Project

June 24 Thursday – Continue Reading + Work on Final Project **HW:** By 1 p.m. tomorrow, e-mail me with either your screenplay or your outline.

June 25 Friday – Finish Reading + Work on Final Project

Week Four

June 28 Monday – Work on Final Project **HW:** Watch *Silver Linings Playbook* – prepare a discussion comment/question about either the book or the movie or both + by 9 p.m. tonight, send professor your shooting script or rough draft

June 29 Tuesday – Discuss Book + Movie **HW:** Study for quiz

June 30 Wednesday – **Quiz 2** open from 1-2:30

July 1 Thursday – Work on Final Project

July 2 Friday – Work on Final Project **HW:** by 5 p.m. tonight, send professor your fully edited "finished" film project

Week Five

July 5 Monday – Work on Final Project **HW:** Remember those Questions Forums about the Final Projects? If you have any concerns or need clarification, now is the time to read through those forums and also post your final questions!

July 6 Tuesday – **HW:** by 8 a.m. tomorrow morning, e-mail professor with your final draft or final copy of film project

July 7 Wednesday – **By 8 a.m. today your film project or essay is due!**

July 8 Thursday – TBA – depending on how many singles/groups choose film projects as their final assignment, this day may also be a WebEx film festival day

July 9 Friday – FILM FESTIVAL We will watch the films together in class!! Also, I will create discussion forums named after each of your films, and the class can comment in the forums for participation points.