

## Fall 2020: Preliminary Course Description

### ENGL 3902 A / FILM 3902: Writing Screenplays with A. Neiley

This creative writing workshop is an introduction to writing for the screen, so while no previous screenwriting experience is required, at least some familiarity with narrative structure is necessary. As a group, whether online, in person, or both, we will build on your previous knowledge and understanding of how stories work, honing your skills—dialogue, dramatic tension, character development—specifically for the world of film. This course will be heavy in both reading AND writing, as there is no better way to learn than by exemplary example (*American Beauty* by Alan Ball and *Casablanca* by Julius and Philip Epstein, Howard Koch, and Casey Robinson, for instance), and no better way to improve than practice! We will also examine short stories with particularly effective narrative arc and dialogue to study the crossover between genres, as well as how to translate (or adapt) one genre to the other. Perhaps most importantly, we will workshop together, critically reading/performing/discussing each other's screenplays in an effort to provide constructive feedback for future drafts.