

Syllabus
ZUR 393m Films - writing the screen outline
(Screen Outline Writing for Fiction films with Review of American Film)

Lecturer: Richard P. Milner

Assistant: Pavel Sedláček, pavelsedlacek@mail.muni.cz

Timetable (13 sessions):

- **Thursday**, 12th Nov 2015, 8am-9.30am, room U34 + 5pm-8.15pm, room U34, Joštova 10, Faculty of Social Studies
- **Friday**, 13th Nov 2015, from 8am-1pm, room U34, Joštova 10, Faculty of Social Studies
- **Thursday**, 19th Nov 2015, 8am-9.30am, room U34 + 5pm - 8.15pm, room P22, Joštova 10, Faculty of Social Studies
- **Friday**, 20th Nov 2015, from 8am to 1pm, room U33, Joštova 10, Faculty of Social Studies

Assignments: three outlines and viewing of all films, one before each class.

Texts: Story by Robert McKee.

Film list:

The Kid Stays In The Picture – Brett Morgen from memoir by Robert Evans.

The Graduate – Calder Willingham.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – William Goldman.

Point Break – W. Peter Iliff.

Annie Hall – Woody Allen and Marshall Brickman.

Chinatown – Robert Towne.

Jackie Brown – Quentin Tarantino – adapted from Elmore Leonard's novel *Rum Punch*.

Breaking Bad (Episodes 12, 12 and 13) – Vince Gilligan and team.

Classroom: Using examples from the film list, Milner will give lectures on the following with remaining class time dedicated to student participation and mutual assistance under Milner's guidance.

Genres - overview, viewer expectation and the importance of writing within genres.

Theme - deciding what the film should be about.

Culture in America - at the time.

Characters – understanding the difference between a character and a person, character description and the importance of contrast.

Plot – three-act compared to other forms with and without subplots, the turning point, act climaxes, and the power of withholding information.

Outline – Describing the scenes and the action in a card file stack first.

Dialogue – beats.

Scene Troubleshooting – scene imperatives.

Screenwriters Guild – why it exists. Project registration.

Discussion of Copyright, Agents, Producers, Directors, Production Package, Attorneys, and Career Routes.