

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
LOS ANGELES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
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BOSTON UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES PROGRAM

1/4/16

COURSE SYLLABUS (January 19, 2016 - April 26, 2016) – Careers in Hollywood

COURSE #s, TITLES and CREDITS: Film & Television Students
COM FT 585 Speakers Series:
Careers in Hollywood (4 credits)

CAREERS IN ENTERTAINMENT – Course Overview and Objective:

A series of symposium-style evenings with industry professionals speaking on a myriad of topics including career opportunities in the entertainment industry, current events and the state of the motion picture, television, internet businesses and related fields, and emerging markets and trends. Each class is moderated by the Professor with questions and answers sessions for the students following the moderated portion of each class. Students will be given the opportunity for up-close-and-personal interaction with industry movers and shakers. Students have an opportunity to network with both Boston University industry alumni and non-alumni professionals. Additionally, there will likely be screenings of film, television and/or new-media works, some of which might be completed and others which might be works-in-progress. Discussion will follow screenings with the artists and producers. Past speakers include film and TV screenwriters, film and TV directors, film and TV producers, casting directors, animation executives, studio and network executives, book authors, production designers, editors, music supervisors, sports programmers, agents, managers, business and legal affairs executives, special effects supervisors and development executives, among others. Discussions will include: (i) how to jump-start your career, (ii) how to apply what you've learned in the classroom to the marketplace, (iii) how to land a job, and another job; (iv) understanding the personalities and social constructs of the business; (v) major influences on the speakers' lives, personally and

professionally; (vi) how to navigate your way through the industry and make a career for yourself in the entertainment business; (vii) how to diversify your experience in film, TV and other media so as to maximize your career opportunities; and (viii) an exploration of emerging trends and changes currently under way in the entertainment industry. Careers in Entertainment is intended to help bridge the gap between graduation and entering the work force for students pursuing a career in the entertainment industry, whether it be in film, television, new media, or other fields. It is a practical analysis of the entire industry and will cover a wide spectrum of practical thought and advice from successful professionals. The speakers will share their experiences and thoughts in an intimate setting and provide the students the opportunity to establish a network of industry contacts. At the end of the course, students should have gained an awareness and confidence to venture out on their own to land a job, be confident in their ability to contribute in any environment they choose to pursue, and understand just how to have a career and earn a living working in the entertainment industry.

PROFESSOR/DIRECTORS:

Sam Sokolow

Lecturer - Film & TV Department

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MEETING TIME:

Tuesday 7:30pm-10pm

LOCATION:

Park La Brea 435 Curson Ave. Park La Brea Theater (Primary Meeting Room)

GRADING: The Careers in Entertainment course will be graded as follows: (i) 20% class attendance AND class participation; (ii) 30% based on final essay exam; and (iii) 50% based on semester-long journal. The mid-term will be a take home exam and taken on an honor system. The exam will be essay-based but

may include some short answer questions.

JOURNAL: The course will require a semester-long journal to be maintained/updated after each guest speaker or event (e.g.; screening, field trip). Each student will be required to write an essay between 1-2 pages in length (typed, single spaced) after each class/event as follows: students may choose to (i) prepare an essay detailing how the guest speaker or event influenced his/her opinion about the entertainment industry (positively or negatively); or (ii) prepare an essay detailing a topic, story or piece of advice given/shared by the speaker that manifested itself in his/her internship/workplace and real life experience in Los Angeles.

In drafting the essays, each student is encouraged to take into consideration all that they are learning from the guest speakers and events/field trips, including the speaker's respective career paths and current opinions on the state of the industry and its future, as well as what the students have learned and experienced in their internships.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class attendance and participation are extremely important for Careers in Entertainment. The course involves guest speakers and a symposium atmosphere and question and answer sessions, so discussion is very important to the process, allowing for the best experience for the students. Screenings of works-in-progress may also come into play. We are in the "communications" business, so classroom discussion and interaction is an important part of the course.

As set forth in the **Boston University Los Angeles** Program Student Handbook, unexcused absences will result in the student's class grade being lowered. Please be aware that class time takes precedent over internship time so missing class due to an internship conflict, unless excused by the Professor, is no excuse for missing class. Any issues resulting from a conflict between class and a student's internship may be addressed through the Director's office. All internship coordinators are informed of this University policy.

HONOR SYSTEM: Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Any kind of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in the filing of academic misconduct charges. Any suspicious act/material/ etc. will be investigated to the fullest extent possible and those found guilty will be punished accordingly. **BE SURE TO READ AND COMPLY WITH BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S UNIVERSAL ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE.** It is available at: bu.edu/academics.

SPEAKERS & TOPICS TO BE COVERED: A wide range of career opportunities will be explored in this class. Past speakers include: Talent/Producer Manager and Packager/Producer for Reality/Unscripted Television Programming; Independent Filmmakers (writer/director/producer); Internet programming

developer/producer; Studio Executive (Sony Pictures/Screen Gems); Studio Producer (“Resident Evil Series”; “Underworld Series”); Studio Writer/Director (“Watchmen”; “The X-Men Series”; “Scorpion King”) and developer of video games and video game based television and film content; Executive VP Business Affairs and Financing – TNT Television, Avi Arad Productions; Television Writer and Showrunner (“3rd Rock From The Sun”; “The Tracey Murray Show”; “That 70’s Show”) and web-based comedy series writer; Disney Channel Executive of Original Movies; and Animation Producer for The Cookie Jar - develops and produces animated television programmin.; Music Supervisor and Soundtrack producer – Zomba Music, Jive Records, New Line Pictures; Visual Effects Director/Producer and CGI Director; Films (“Robosapien”, “Tekken”, “True Lies”, “Karate Dog”); Feature film and television Editor and Post-Production Supervisor – both for independent and studio and network films; Television Sports Programming Producer/Director/Editor – Fox Sports Television; Branded Entertainment developer and producer and director; Documentarian and Sundance Award Winning filmmaker (“Fuel”); International Film Sales Agent; Essential Entertainment/Miramax/Disney- Buena Vista; Best-selling novelist and TV Reality Personality (“The Expected One”, “The Book of Love”, “Herstories”); New-media developer and producer (“Black Box”); International television acquisition and sales executive and cable television innovator (Lions Gate, Sony); Academy Award winning Production Designer (“Sleepy Hollow”, “Pirates of the Caribbean”; Young Boston University Alumnus in varying fields; Casting Director film and television (“Tekken”, “Robosapien”).

CLASS SCHEDULE: CAREERS IN HOLLYWOOD

- 1. January 19, 2016:** *Introduction to class – Sam Sokolow*
- 2. January 26, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 3. February 2, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 4. February 9, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 5. February 16, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 6. February 23, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 7. March 1, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 8. March 15, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 9. March 22, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 10. March 29, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 11. April 5, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 12. April 12, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 13. April 19, 2015:** *Speaker TBD*
- 14. April 26, 2016:** *Speaker TBD*

SUGGESTED READING LIST:

1. The Biz by Schuyler M. Moore (Silman-JamesPress)
2. Dealmaking in the Film & TV Industry by Mark Litwak. Silmar/Jones.
3. Pound of Flesh by Art Linson
4. From Script to Screen: The Collaborative Art of Filmmaking by Linda Segar and Edward Jay Whitmore. Owl Books 2000.
5. How To Make It In Hollywood by Linda Buzzell. Harper Perennial.
6. Down and Dirty Pictures by Peter Biskind. Simon&Schuster
7. Hello He Lied by Linda Obst
8. The War For Late Night by Bill Carter
9. Daily trade papers such as Variety, Hollywood Reporter, Deadline Hollywood [On-line]
10. Hollywood Creative Directory

SUGGESTED WEB SITES:

1. IMDB.com
2. script-o-rama.com
3. whorepresents.com
4. filmstew.com
5. inktip.com
6. film-connection.com
7. filmfestivals.com
8. filmbiz.com
9. industrycentral.net
10. thefilmlaw.com
11. productionhub.com
12. newfilmmakersla.com