

## **Producing Across Media: Idea to Story**

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This course will examine the various types of creative decisions that producers make at different stages of a works progress:

- identifying material
- developing material
- production decisions
- post production decisions

The emphasis of the course is the role that the producer plays in the creation of the story; the way in which the producer works with the underlying material; and the decisions the producer makes to bring a script to completion. The course will consider the choices made in a variety of dramatic media, including film, theater and television. There will be a special emphasis on thinking about ideas for television and other platforms, where the producer's role is especially tied to the ongoing creative process.

The course will examine a number of case studies, and use these as examples for discussion. The case studies listed below are examples of the type of works we will be looking at.

Throughout the semester the students will be “developing “the treatments of two of four possible projects:

- A classic re-told
- A short story into dramatic form
- A non-fiction story into dramatic form
- An ongoing story-line idea

Students will also have the opportunity to bring in screenplays or teleplays they are working on.

Weeks 1-2 Finding the right medium—Source/Film/Television (Case Studies: *A Question of Mercy*; *Friday Night Lights*)

Weeks 3-4 Re-Thinking a Classic – (Case Study: Jane Austen *Emma*/ *Clueless*)  
Students will bring in examples of classics.

Weeks 5-7 Adapting new material (Case study: *Brokeback Mountain*)

Week 8 Finding the on-going story-line (Case Study: *M.A.S.H.*)

Weeks 9-11 Finding the Story in Non-Fiction  
(Case Studies: *Grey Gardens* (Documentary/ Musical/teleplay  
*All the Presidents Men*)

*Homicide (TV)*  
*Adaptation*

Week 12 Considering the Franchise—(Case Studies: Batman; *Law and Order* )

Week 13 Working with the Script

Week 14 Telling the story to the Audience—What are the ways to consider cross-platforming/ extensions (Case Studies: NBC/ USA)

Assignments;

Students will be responsible for participating in class discussions, and for presentations that involve the “development” projects. Students may also be responsible for creative presentations of the scripts they are developing—readings, etc.