Sample Syllabus
<u>WRITING FOR PRIMETIME DRAMATIC TV SERIES</u>

Week 1 *(Chapter One)*
Introduction to the principles of writing network-style
episodic drama. How episodic series writing differs from
other kinds of screenwriting in conception, intention,
characterization and structure. Overview of the business of
TV-writing. Overview of the course.
Assignment: Read the sample script distributed
              What are the A, B and C stories?

Week 2 *(Chapter Three)*
In-class screening of the episode you read. Structure
of a typical hour show.
Assignment: Watch the recommended series. Read sample
scripts. Choose a show to write.

Week 3 *(Chapter Two)*
Structure of a network season. What is a series
format? What is a series bible? How is a pilot
determined? How does the pilot relate to subsequent
episodes? How to pitch to a show. Tell us the series
you are going to pursue, and how.
Assignment: Study your chosen show. Prepare individual
pitches.

Week 4 *(Chapter Four)*
Workshopping on student pitches. How to create a
dramatic television plot.
Assignment: Revise your pitches; watch the show.

Week 5
Student pitches continue.
Assignment: Complete written stories.

Week 6 *(Chapter Four — the Outline section)*
Conclude workshopping on student pitches. How to write
a series outline.
Assignment: Study the outline sample distributed.
Write Act One of the outline of your episode.

Week 7 *(Chapter Five)*
Workshopping on student outlines. How to go from
outline to script. How a series staff operates.
Assignment: Work on your outline.

Week 8

Conclude workshopping on outlines.
Assignment: Write the teaser for your script.

Week 9
Workshopping on teasers. Keep writing your script.

Weeks 10-14 *(Chapter Seven)*
Intensive workshopping on student work in progress.
In-class discussions of scenes each week.
Assignment: Revise and complete your script. Bring
pages to class for feedback each week.

Week 15 *(Chapter Six)*
Final workshopping and summary of the course. Where do
you go from here to write for TV?
Assignment: Mail or deliver your completed script by
the date to be announced.