

Los Angeles-based educator, writer and producer **Nizar Wattad** has offered the following classes and workshops:

CLASSES

Variety Performance

This one semester course (currently at Elon University's Los Angeles program) presents students with unique academic and cultural experiences available only in a vibrant, multicultural city like Los Angeles. Through a selection of readings/viewings and field study, students sample a range of performing arts including acting/hosting, spoken word, street art/happenings, improv/sketch comedy, and standup comedy. Intended as an introduction to these various forms as well as the challenges of pursuing them professionally, discussions and live performances are complemented by guest lectures from industry professionals. Students finally choose one or several original projects to perform, record, and present at a public screening.

Feature-Length Screenplay Development

This one semester course takes students through the process of selecting an idea, fleshing out the world, developing characters and a plot structure, and outlining a feature-length screenplay. By end of the semester, students have everything they need to write a solid first draft screenplay.

WORKSHOPS

Modern Screenwriting Workshop (1 to 2 days)

The instructor draws on hands-on experience with top industry professionals to deliver a clear, concise, comprehensive overview of screenplay structure and the screenwriting process that serves as **a solid introduction for beginners and a perfect refresher for professionals** seeking to expand their screenwriting arsenal. Participants gain an in-depth understanding of screenplay theory, and a **unique writing system** developed by the presenter with the input of Golden Age screenwriters, Sundance lab advisors, screenwriting gurus and Oscar winners. Participants with completed scripts or synopses pitch their stories, applying course lessons to their projects. Topics covered include:

Fundamentals of Story

- choosing a theme / idea
- developing characters

Screenplay Structure

- scenes / sequences / acts / story
- determining beats through character
- scene creation

Practical / Technical Screenwriting

- screenplay format
- visual description, transitions and the camera
- writing is rewriting
- developing good writing habits
- the professional writer

Writing the Short Film (1 week, novice and intermediate writers)

Designed to take participants through an abridged version of the screenwriting process, from inception to polish. **Prior** to this engrossing workshop, participants submit a simple idea for a short film (up to 10 minutes) with a beginning, middle, and end. The instructor first provides a comprehensive overview of screenplay structure and the writing process (see “Modern Screenwriting” above) – then spends the week working closely with participants to put theory to practice. **Participants gain a solid understanding of screenplay theory, a unique writing system developed by the presenter- and a short film script!** Scheduling is flexible, but a sample week is as follows:

Prior to Workshop: Participants submit a one-line idea.

Day One: Lecture - Fundamentals of Story & Screenplay Structure

Day Two: Lecture - Practical / Technical Screenwriting

Participants pitch ideas & receive feedback

Participants write outlines

Day Three: Workshop Outlines

Participants write scenes

Day Four: Workshop Scenes

Participants finish first draft of a short film script

Day Five: Workshop First Drafts

Optional extra days to workshop rewrites, but after incorporating notes from Day Five every student should have a short script that is ready to shoot.

Advanced Screenplay Development (varies)

Intended for **serious writers** looking to take their project to the next level, this is a less formal, more **intimate and in-depth analysis** of the participant’s script, synopsis or treatment. One-on-one or small group sessions, duration determined by the desired scope and number of participants. Can include elements of other workshops, story / structure lectures, character development tools, and hands-on script workshops.