

# **A Screenwriters' GPS with Conrad Sun Syllabus**

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## **DAY ONE - INTRODUCTION - WHERE'S THE EMOTION?**

The number one note I give writers...

Why do we WATCH motion pictures and why do we MAKE motion pictures?

The science of emotion (I know this sounds academic, but trust me it will pay off).

The 8 basic emotions (fear, joy, sadness, contempt, surprise, empathy, suspense)

The four basic conceits (character, story, world, cinematic)

How to use the four conceits to generate emotions

## **DAY ONE - CHARACTER CONCEIT**

How to make your protagonist interesting and empathetic

Empathy vs Sympathy and how they're both important

Character arcs - what it REALLY means to create an emotional arc.

Internal motivation vs external motivation and how they're both important

## **DAY ONE - STORY CONCEIT**

Story vs "Things Happening"

The engine - your first priority and how to start it. The importance of chronology used to generate emotion

Drama vs Information and how they should always be linked

The proper way to outline using scene's purpose (why) first, before establishing the scene itself (what/how).

## **DAY TWO - WORLD CONCEIT**

This is more than just setting and time but the rules that make your world unique

The contract you sign with your audience from page 1

How to use your words to paint the tone of your script

## **DAY TWO - CINEMATIC CONCEITS**

Writing from your voice vs your experience

Writing to the pace your story moves on screen  
Use your words to create style, not just story

## **DAY TWO - PITCHING**

Pitching vs Telling vs Selling - the important differences between all three techniques

How to use your conceits to build your pitch and generate emotion

The formula for constructing your pitch.

How to make your listener lean-in to your pitch