

## **Story Seminar Outline:**

### **DAY 1**

- The writer and the art of story
- The decline of story in contemporary film
- Story design: the meaning of story, the substance of story, the limitations and inspirations of story structure & genre, the debate between character vs story design
- Premise Idea, Counter Idea, Controlling Idea
- Story Structure: beat, scene, sequence, act, story
- Mapping the Story universe: Archplot, Miniplot, Antipplot
- Shaping the source of story energy and creation

### **DAY 2**

- Putting the elements of story together
- The principles of character dimension and design
- The composition of scenes
- Titles
- Irony; Melodrama
- False endings
- The text: description, dialogue, and poetics
- The spectrum of story genres

### **DAY 3**

- Act design: the great sweep and body of story
- The first major story event (the inciting incident)
- Scene design in Story: turning points, emotional dynamics, setup/payoff, the nature of choice
- Ordering and linking scenes
- Exposition: dramatizing your characters, the story setting, creating back story
- The principles of antagonism
- Crisis, climax and resolution

## DAY 4

- Story adaptations
- Scene analysis: text and sub-text; design through dialogue versus design through action
- The writer's method: working from the inside out; the creative process from inspiration to final draft.
- How it all works: the principles of the previous 3-1/2 days applied in a 6-hour, scene-by-scene screening and analysis of CASABLANCA
- The spectrum of story genres