

**MEDIA 123 Course Outline as of Summer 2018****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: MEDIA 123 Title: INT. SCREENWRITING

Full Title: Intermediate Screenwriting

Last Reviewed: 1/27/2020

| Units   |      | Course Hours per Week |      | Nbr of Weeks | Course Hours Total |       |
|---------|------|-----------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Maximum | 3.00 | Lecture Scheduled     | 3.00 | 17.5         | Lecture Scheduled  | 52.50 |
| Minimum | 3.00 | Lab Scheduled         | 0    | 6            | Lab Scheduled      | 0     |
|         |      | Contact DHR           | 0    |              | Contact DHR        | 0     |
|         |      | Contact Total         | 3.00 |              | Contact Total      | 52.50 |
|         |      | Non-contact DHR       | 0    |              | Non-contact DHR    | 0     |

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

An intermediate screenwriting course that focuses on longer form writing, from a complete act to a full-length feature script. Emphasis will be not just on writing content (story plot, writing style, etc), but also on marketing one's work and choosing concepts that are marketable. Students will be able to tailor the class towards their interests in terms of form (feature or television writing) and genre (drama, comedy, action, etc.).

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

Course Completion of FMA 22 ( or MEDIA 22)

**Recommended Preparation:****Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

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1. Structuring and Plotting
  - A. Beyond the three-act structure and blending genres.
  - B. Multiple character arcs
  - C. Plot set-up, execution and delivering the unexpected
  - D. Writing to scale and writing to shoot
  - E. Feature length and short film story writing
2. Formatting the screenplay
3. Writing
  - A. Story outlines
  - B. Character backstories
  - C. Creating dramatic scenes and story arcs
  - D. Tension, irony and expectation
  - E. Character, dialogue and subtext
4. Revising
  - A. Workshops
  - B. Peer critiques
5. Film Analysis
  - A. Film grammar
  - B. Film genres
6. Marketing
  - A. Targeting a market
  - B. Screenplay festivals and agents, particularly the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Awards
  - C. The screenwriters marketing materials

**Assignment:**

1. Readings: (50 to 60 pages per week)
  - a. Current and classic screenplays, reading and analysis
  - b. Style guide for proper writing formats
  - c. Topical literature pertinent to screenwriting topics and to the film and television industry which applies to the writer and the writing process
2. Screenings and discussions of representative feature films
3. Writing: (90 to 120 pages)
  - a. Daily and weekly creative assignments dealing with various topics such as format, dialogue, characterization
  - b. A major screenplay project
  - c. A short screenplay that could be produced by Media 20 students
4. Participation in group activities, in-class workshops, peer critiques, optional quizzes, and exams.

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework, script development, screenplay

Writing  
70 - 80%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, exams

Exams  
10 - 20%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Class participation and group work

Other Category  
10 - 20%

### **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Story: Substance, Structure, Style, and the Principles of Screenwriting, McKee, Robert. Harper-Collins Publishers, Inc. New York, NY: 1997 (Classic).

Screenplay the Foundations of Screenwriting, Field, Syd. Bantam Dell: New York, NY: 2005 (Classic)

Selling a Screenplay: The Screenwriter's Guide to Hollywood. Field, Syd. Bantam Dell: New York, NY: 2005. (Classic)