

FMA 123 Course Outline as of Summer 2025**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: FMA 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: MEDIA 123

Catalog Description:

An intermediate screenwriting course that focuses on longer form writing, expanding a first act into a complete feature length 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.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Course Completion of FMA 22 (or MEDIA 22)

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

Description: An intermediate screenwriting course that focuses on longer form writing, expanding a first act into a complete feature length 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. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Course Completion of FMA 22 (or MEDIA 22)

Recommended:

II. Formatting the Screenplay

III. Writing

- A. Story outlines
- B. Character backstories
- C. Creating dramatic scenes and story arcs
- D. Tension, irony and expectation
- E. Character, dialogue and subtext

IV. Revising

- A. Workshops
- B. Peer critiques

V. Film Analysis

- A. Film grammar
- B. Film genres

VI. Marketing

- A. Targeting a market
- B. Screenplay festivals and agents
- C. The screenwriters marketing materials

Assignment:

1. Readings: (10 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 story development, format, dialogue, characterization
 - b. A major screenplay project
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, story 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.

Optional 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:

Invisible Ink: A Practical Guide to Building Stories that Resonate. McDonald, Brian. 2017

Screenplay the Foundations of Screenwriting. Field, Syd. Bantam Dell. 2005 (classic)

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

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