MEDIA 78 Course Outline as of Summer 2012

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: MEDIA 78   Title: WRITING FOR FILM/TV
Full Title: Writing for Film & Television
Last Reviewed: 1/24/2000

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:
Writing for the visual media is one of the most important modern communication skills. This course covers theory and practice of writing drama and comedy scripts for film and television.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Completion of ENGL 357, MEDIA 41, MEDIA 42, MEDIA 77, MEDIA 79A.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Analysis of the theory, form & practice of writing for film & television. Emphasis on writing original scripts. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Completion of ENGL 357, MEDIA 41, MEDIA 42, MEDIA 77, MEDIA 79A.
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit:
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree: **Area**   Effective: Inactive:
CSU GE: **Transfer Area**   Effective: Inactive:

IGETC: **Transfer Area**   Effective: Inactive:

CSU Transfer: Effective: Inactive:

UC Transfer: Effective: Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Certificate Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:
The students will:
1. Utilize dramatic theory in writing for film and television.
2. Identify and select material appropriate to a particular medium.
3. Evaluate character motivation and psychology.
4. Assess and employ methods of non-verbal communication in writing.
5. Plan and organize story and character elements into dramatic plotting.
6. Describe how conflict and goals are translated into action by characters.
7. Describe the function of the script in relation to the entire production process.
8. Identify industry requirements for writing in film and television.

Topics and Scope:

1. Aristotlean, Elizabethan and contemporary dramatic theory as applied to writing for film and television.
2. The definition, function, and creation of characters. How character functions in relation to plot.
3. The interaction of main and subplots. Theme and plot. How to plot a story. Multi-level plotting.
4. Dialogue as a function of character. Verbal versus non-verbal communication in drama. Attributes of good dialogue.
5. Film grammar and its place in writing. Manipulation of time and space. Camera angle and story telling logic.
6. Economic and industary factors bearing on the creative process.
7. Learning to write in the proper format.
8. How to select and evaluate story. The importance of tone and setting.

Assignment:

1. Readings:
   A. Reading and analysis of representative screenplays, novels,
      and short stories.
   B. Style handbook for proper writing formats.
   C. Periodical 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 and
   television programming. Analysis of the changes which occur between
   the written word and its visual image.
3. Writing:
   A. Weekly creative assignments dealing with various topics such
      as format, dialogue, characterization.
   B. A major course project consisting of an original comedic or
      or dramatic script for film or television 60 pages in
      length.

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, Term papers	Writing 60 - 75%

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

Homework problems	Problem solving 20 - 30%

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.

None	Exams 0 - 0%

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

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION	Other Category 15 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
WRITING THE SCREENPLAY, Alan A. Archer, Wadsworth, 2nd ed., 1993
ON THE WATERFRONT, Budd Schulberg, Samuel French Publishing, 1988
FIVE SCREENPLAYS BY PRESTON STURGES, University of California, 1985

THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE, John Huston, University of Wisconsin Press, 1979