MEDIA 123 Course Outline as of Fall 2020

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, 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 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 MEDIA 22
Recommended:

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:
Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Revise and finish properly formatted screenplay, act, or television script.
2. Evaluate the current trends in the marketplace to develop concepts for sale.
3. Market themselves as writers and their scripts.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:

1. Exploit the subtle features of the screenplay format.
2. Write a screenplay with a particular writing style.
3. Examine marketing trends of feature films and television products.
4. Create marketing tools to promote one's script or concept.
5. Foster creative practices individually and in groups.
6. Write and brainstorm effectively in groups.
7. Focus on original concepts and plots.
8. Understand the conventions of genre.
9. Focus on character development through backstory.
10. Write character-specific dialogue.
11. Compose a finished, revised, properly formatted screenplay, act, or television script.

Topics and Scope:

I. Structuring and Plotting
   A. 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 story writing

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).