MEDIA 22 Course Outline as of Fall 2012

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: MEDIA 22   Title: SCREENWRITING
Full Title: Screenwriting
Last Reviewed: 2/12/2018

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 introduction to the fundamentals of screenwriting, including story structure, character development, dialogue, plotting, and formatting as they are used in creating scripts for film and television.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Completion of ENGL 100B or higher (V8) OR Qualifying Test Score of 125 in ENGL

Recommended Preparation:
Completion of MEDIA 10

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: An introduction to the fundamentals of screenwriting, including story structure, character development, dialogue, plotting, and formatting as they are used in creating scripts for film and television. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites: Completion of ENGL 100B or higher (V8) OR Qualifying Test Score of 125 in ENGL
Recommended: Completion of MEDIA 10

Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
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:	Transferable	Effective: Fall 2012	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective: Fall 2012	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Not Certificate/Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of screenplay format.
2. Describe screenwriting business practices in the film industry.
3. Analyze a screenplay from an industry reader's perspective.
4. Analyze and demonstrate the use of the "three act" structure.
5. Analyze and demonstrate the use of various character elements including:
   (a) character arc;
   (b) use of foils, protagonists, & antagonists; and
   (c) revelation of character qualities through dramatic action.
6. Create dialogue and subtext that demonstrates verisimilitude.
7. Compose at least one act (or at least 30 pages) of polished screenwriting.

Topics and Scope:

I. Structuring and Plotting
   A. Three-Act structure
   B. Character arcs
   C. The Hero's Journey and other popular structural models
   D. Treatments
II. Formatting
   A. Master scenes
   B. Software and page set-up features
   C. Transitions, camera angles, sound effects, and special effects
   D. Produced scripts vs. speculative scripts
III. Writing
   A. Treatments
   B. Character histories

   C. Sequences, scenes, and beats
   D. Action
   E. Dialogue and subtext
   F. Studio coverage on a produced script
IV. Revising
   A. Workshops
   B. Peer critiques
V.   Film Analysis
   A. Film grammar
   B. Film genres
VI. Marketing
   A. Pitching
   B. Marketing the speculative "spec" script

Assignment:

1. Readings: (40 to 50 pages per week)
   a. Reading and analysis of representative screenplays
   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
3. Writing: (90 to 120 pages)
   a. Weekly creative assignments dealing with various topics such
      as 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, 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 0 - 20%

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

Class Participation and Group Work	Other Category 0 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Making a Good Script Great, 3rd ed. Seger, L.   Silman-James Press: 2010
Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting. Field, S. Delta Press: 2005
The Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script, 5th ed. Trottier, D. Silman-James Press: 2010
Writing the Screenplay, 2nd ed. Armer, A. A. Waveland: 2002 (Classic)