#### **MEDIA 22** Course Outline as of Summer 2019

# **CATALOG INFORMATION**

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

Units		<b>Course Hours per Week</b>		Nbr of Weeks	<b>Course Hours Total</b>	
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:**

Course Completion of ENGL 100 or ESL 100 or higher (V8); or appropriate placement based on AB705 mandates

**Recommended Preparation:** Course 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: Course Completion of ENGL 100 or ESL 100 or higher (V8); or appropriate placement based on AB705 mandates

# **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

AS Degree: CSU GE:	Area Transfer Area	L		Effective: Effective:	Inactive: Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	Transfer Area	L		Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer	: Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2012	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2012	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. Compose a well developed and properly formatted screenplay.
- 2. Evaluate a theatrically produced film script.

## **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
  - 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: (60 to 90 pages)
  - a. Weekly creative assignments dealing with various topics such as format, dialogue, characterization
  - b. A major screenplay project
- 4. Participation in group activities, workshops, and peer critiques
- 5. 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

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

Writing 75 - 75%

Problem solving 0 - 0%

None

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

None

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

Quizzes, Exams

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

**Class Participation and Group Work** 

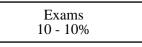
## **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

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

The Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script. 6th ed. Trottier, David. Silman-James Press. 2014

Making a Good Script Great. 3rd ed. Seger, Linda. Silman-James Press. 2010 (classic) Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting. Field, Syd. Delta Press. 2005 (classic) Writing the Screenplay. 2nd ed. Armer, Alan. Waveland. 2002 (classic)

Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%



Other Category 15 - 15%