Course Number: CMN 144
Course Title: Screenwriting
Credits: 3

Hours: 2 Lecture/2 Lab Co- or Pre-requisite: ENG101, 102

Catalog description (2013 Catalog): Aimed at the conception, planning and writing of screenplays. Through a series of writing exercises, scenes, short scripts and treatments, the student is expected to complete a 20 page short film script. The basics of character development, narrative, structure, texture, genre and the ability to visualize in writing are explored.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Revised


Revision date: Spring 2014 Course coordinator: Barry Levy, X 465, levyb@mccc.edu

Information resources:
Course Competencies/Goals:
The student will be able to:

1. Discuss the importance of story
2. Illustrate the importance of conflict in screenplay
3. Establish a methodology for screenwriting
4. Develop an understanding of storytelling through critical concepts such as structure, substance and style
5. Develop new vocabulary related to screenwriting
6. Demonstrate the ability to write dialogue in a screenplay
7. Deconstruct and analyze current and historical screenplays
8. Illustrate how to properly format a screenplay
9. Research, develop and write a 20-25 page screenplay

General Education Knowledge Goals
Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

MCCC Core Skills
Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.
Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.
Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making. Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.
Goal D. Information Literacy. Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.
Goal E. Computer Literacy. Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.
Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation. Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.
Goal G. Intra Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global and environmental awareness.
Units of Study in Detail

Unit 1  Screenplay
The student will be able to:

- Identify and define status quo in screenplay (CG 1, 2, 3) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Define the function of settings on a narrative in a screenplay (CG 1, 2, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Identify key terms associated with screenplay writing. (CG 1, 2, 3, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Research examples of well written screenplays (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 7)
- Research examples of poorly written screenplays (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 7)
- Deconstruct a beat, scene, sequence, act and story of a screenplay (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 6, 7)
- Describe the evolution of screenplay through different generations and the impact on our society & culture (CG 3, 8 & 9) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)

Unit 2: Elements of Story
The student will be able to:

- Explain the structure spectrum in screenplay writing (CG 1, 2 & 3) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Describe the value of each act in a screenplay format. (CG 1, 3, 4, 5, 7) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Describe and detail the difference between a full-length feature film and a short film. (CG 1, 2, 3, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Describe and detail the importance of setting in screenplay structure (CG 1, 2, 3, 6, 8) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Explain the importance of genre in screenplay structure (CG 1, 2, 3) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Explain the importance of character in screenplay structure (CG 1, 2, 3, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)

Unit 3: Principles of Story Design
The student will be able to:

- Describe the substance of a story (CG 1, 2, 3, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Create an effective inciting incident (CG 1, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Analyze their own scenes (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Deconstruct scenes from classic films (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Establish conflict in scenes (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Deconstruct a scene looking for changes in emotional conflict (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
- Discuss the importance of crisis, climax and resolution (CG 7) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6 7)
Unit 4: Structure

The student will be able to:

- Describe and discuss the principle of antagonism (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Describe and discuss the importance of a protagonist (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Illustrate the value of expectational gaps in scenes (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Differentiate between exposition and dialogue (CG 1, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Create a “empathetic” character (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Describe the importance of act breaks in a screenplay (CG 1, 2, 3, 4) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 6)
- Develop a step outline (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)
- Describe the difference between text and subtext (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 5, 6, 7)

Unit 5: The Screenplay

The student will be able to:

- Research, defend and present a story concept (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
- Describe the importance of theme in a screenplay (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 6 & 7)
- Write a step outline and treatment (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
- Recall and demonstrate proper screenplay formatting (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
- Write a properly formatted 20 page screenplay. (CG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) (Gen Ed 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)

Evaluation of Student Learning

Students’ achievements of the course objectives will be evaluated through the use of the following

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Tools</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Entries &amp; Film Analysis Reports</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes, formatting assignments &amp; Oral Presentations (Pitches)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Writing Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Film Research, Outline &amp; Treatment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project – Write a 20 minute short film screenplay</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Growth</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Academic Integrity Statement:

Students are expected to comply with the college-wide requirements for academic integrity. Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity—the honest, fair, and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work. Presenting another individual’s work as one’s own and receiving excessive help from another individual will qualify as a violation of Academic Integrity. The entire policy on Academic Integrity is located in the Student handbook and is found on the college website (http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_policies_integrity.shtml).