

**Course Outline**

COURSE: THEA 20                      DIVISION: 10                      ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Fall 2018                      CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 04/23/2018

SHORT TITLE: INTRO SCRIPTWRITING

LONG TITLE: Introduction to Scriptwriting

Units	Number of Weeks		Contact Hours/Week		Total Contact Hours
3	18	Lecture:	3	Lecture:	54
		Lab:	0	Lab:	0
		Other:	0	Other:	0
		Total:	3	Total:	54

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introductory course on script development and writing for film, television and electronic media. Emphasis on preparing scripts in proper formats, conceptual and stylistic issues related to writing fiction and non-fiction scripts. This course has the option of a letter grade or pass/no pass. ADVISORY: English 250

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

**GRADING MODES**

- L - Standard Letter Grade
- P - Pass/No Pass

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

**SCHEDULE TYPES:**

- 02 - Lecture and/or discussion
- 05 - Hybrid
- 72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Recognize and construct scripts for television, film and electronic media productions.
- Measure of assessment: Writing Projects

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

2. Demonstrate and apply writing skills for broadcast television, electronic media and film.

Measure of assessment: Writing projects and scripts

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

3. Judge and rate scripts for television broadcast, film and electronic media.

Measure of assessment: Written examination, written evaluations, submissions and critiques

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

4. Assemble scripts using correct formatting as required by industry standards.

Measure of assessment: Written examination, Written submissions, written peer evaluations

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

5. Explain, use and apply the process of pre-production in script development.

Measure of assessment: Written critiques and evaluations

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

6. Examine and review scripts for television broadcast, film and electronic media productions.

Measure of assessment: written submissions, peer evaluations

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

7. Judge completed scripts as they are produced in television, film and electronic media productions.

Measure of assessment: Written critiques and evaluations

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2011

## **CONTENT, STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Curriculum Approval Date: 04/23/2018

### **WEEK 1- 3 HOURS**

Overview Pre-production and Script Development for television and electronic media.

Introduction to script writing formats for television broadcast and electronic media.

Using the two column script and webisode scripts.

Brainstorming techniques.

Understanding Libel and slander.

Introduce the elements of excellent writing for television.

ASSIGNMENT: Research topic: Libel and Slander

Read & review sample scripts.

Write a two column script. Write a webisode.

SPO: Explain and use the two column script format.

Evaluate television scripts produced for broadcast.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and commercials

Understanding the visual aspects of scriptwriting.

What you see is video, what you hear is audio.

ASSIGNMENT: Read and analyze sample scripts. What is the intent of the script? Describe what you saw and what you heard? Was it effective?

Research a topic for a PSA or commercial

Write and submit a 60 second script for television.

Critique and provide feedback to submitted scripts.

Write a response to all of the scripts submitted for this assignment.

SPO: Evaluate the effect of visuals in scriptwriting.

Prepare written critiques.

### **WEEK 2-3 HOURS**

Broadcast news segments for television and electronic media.

News briefs and Interviews

Convergent technologies. Comcast's "The Fan"

Merging audio/ video in cyberspace.

ASSIGNMENT: Read and analyze assigned scripts.

View online newsbriefs. "The Fan"-Comcast

Write a 2-3 minute segment on a current topic.

Submit a two column script.

Respond to all script submitted for this assignment.

SPO: Report the details of a current event.

Rate the use of descriptive details in a written news segment.

Apply appropriate communication skills in conducting and writing an interview for a news broadcast

WEEK 3 - 3 HOURS

A Brief History of plays on Television: Teleplays, Live Showcases

ASSIGNMENT: Read and view "Requiem for a Heavyweight"

Write a scene by scene analysis of the action

Research the Golden Age of Television

SPO: Recognize and explain live television plays.

Compare and contrast current television drama with live television dramas of the 1950s.

WEEK 4- 3 HOURS

What is a Screenplay? Elements of the script for the screen compared to television and electronic media scripts.

Is it film or is it tape? Early movies. Stage plays filmed with a camera located in the audience. Editing. Simultaneous action.

Aristotle's Poetics

ASSIGNMENT: Read : Syd Field, Chapter 1 What is a Screenplay?

Read: The Shooting script, "The Shawshank Redemption" by Frank Darabont.

SPO: Compare and contrast screenplays, films and television production.

Discuss and explain dramatic plot as exemplified in the play Oedipus Rex.

WEEK 5- 3 HOURS

Writing the screenplay: Elements of the Script

Introduction for Final Draft. Formatting a screenplay.

ASSIGNMENT:

Read : Chapters 2-5

View and analyze: The Shawshank Redemption

Writing exercise: make a list of the people you came into contact with today. Write 3 things that you know about them and then write 3 things you imagine might be true about them.

Begin writing down ideas for your screenplay.

SPO: Evaluate and recognize the screenplay format.

Review and describe the elements of a shooting script.

WEEK 6 -3 HOURS

How to begin writing your script. The Subject- The Characters. Writing a compelling script.

Who, what, where, what is happening.

Brainstorming ideas.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Syd Field Chapters 6-12

Writing exercise: Finding a central character. A protagonist.

Surround your protagonist with other characters in his/her/its life.

SPO: Compose a compelling protagonist.

Apply and use imagination to create a character for a screenplay.

WEEK 7- 3 HOURS

Let the writing process begin. The Screenplay format

Techniques in formatting a screenplay.

What is a treatment?

Using index cards to outline action.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Syd Field Chapter 13-18

Write a treatment or outline of the plot or action of your screenplay.

SPO: Apply the techniques of screenplay formatting.

Describe and explain the struggle of a protagonist.

WEEK 8- 3 HOURS

Review the Foundations of Screenwriting

Writing a Treatment/

ASSIGNMENT: Review Syd Field's Screenplay

Submit a treatment for your screen play.

SPO: Identify the elements of a compelling protagonist.

Prepare a character analysis for the main character of a screenplay.

WRITTEN MIDTERM

WEEK 9 -3 HOURS

Character development

ASSIGNMENT: View the movie: "JUNO" or other appropriate character driven movie.

Writing Exercise: Define what the protagonist wants? What is he/her/its dilemma? Describe the crises he/she/it faced? How were they overcome? What was a resolution?

Submit your character analysis for feedback.

Respond to the characters submitted by your fellow writers.

SPO: Evaluate and analyze characters in a given screenplay.

WEEK 10 & 11- 6 HOURS

Act I-The Beginning: The set-up and plot points

The first 30 pages

ASSIGNMENT: Write the first 15-30 pages of your screenplay.

Submit them for class feedback.

Read and provide feedback to scripts submitted as assigned.

SPO: Evaluate the opening sequences of a screenplay.

Employ proper formatting in developing the opening sequences of the screenplay.

WEEK 12&13 - 6 HOURS

Act II-The Middle: The confrontation, dilemma, the struggle, complications, reversals. The Rising Action. Plot points.

Questions to ask.

ASSIGNMENT: Write the middle 15-30 pages of your script.

Submit them for class feedback.

Read and provide feedback to scripts submitted as assigned.

SPO: Evaluate the middle sequences of a screenplay.

Review and provide feedback for scriptwriters.

Apply and use critiquing skills in discussing plot, characters, dialogue and setting.

**WEEK 13&14 - 6 HOURS**

The End- The Climax, The Denouement, The Resolution, The Falling Action.

ASSIGNMENT: Write the final 15-30 pages of your screenplay.

Submit them for class feedback.

SPO: Evaluate the final sequences of a screenplay.

Apply critiquing skills on plot, characters, dialogue and theme.

**WEEK 15&16 - 6 HOURS**

Submitting a First Draft

Review and reflect on the feedback received from the class.

Incorporate the feedback into the first draft of your script.

ASSIGNMENT: Submit the first draft of your script.

Read and respond to script submitted as assigned.

Read and incorporate the feedback you received from you submission.

SPO: Apply critiquing skills on plot, characters, resolution and theme.

Evaluate the underlying meaning of a story.

**WEEK 17 -3 HOURS**

Rewrite, beginning the Second Draft

ASSIGNMENT: Submit the second draft of your screenplay.

Read and respond to script as assigned.

SPO: Apply and use feedback to construct a screenplay.

**WEEK 18 2 HOURS**

Final written evaluation

### **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture and discussion, submission of a variety of scripts, On-line evaluation, Viewing interviews, films, television and electronic media programs.

### **OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

Required Outside Hours: 20

Assignment Description: An original 10-page treatment

Required Outside Hours: 40

Assignment Description: Numerous short assignments to prepare to write a screenplay.

Required Outside Hours: 48

Assignment Description: A completed original short screenplay or the first act of a feature-length screenplay.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Writing assignments

Percent of total grade: 95.00 %

Percent range of total grade: 95 % to 100 % Written Homework Reading Reports Term or Other Papers

Other: critiques, writing scripts, character analysis

Objective examinations

Percent of total grade: 5.00 %

Percent range of total grade: 1 % to 5 % Multiple Choice

**REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:**

Required Representative Textbooks

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

ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-1935247104

Reading Level of Text, Grade: 13 Verified by: Grant Richards

**ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Associate Degree:

CSU GE:

CSU C1, effective 200550

IGETC:

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU, effective 200550

UC TRANSFER:

Not Transferable

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN:

CAN Sequence:

CSU Crosswalk Course Department: THEA

CSU Crosswalk Course Number: 20

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Maximum Hours:

Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000299109

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 100700