

FILM 003: SCREENWRITING

Formerly known as:

RTV 009 (or if cross-listed - inactivated courses associated with this course)

Originator

vsassone

Justification / Rationale

This is an enrollment cap adjustment to keep this course in line with the other film production courses.

Effective Term

Fall 2020

Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject

FILM - Film

Course Number

003

Full Course Title

Screenwriting

Short Title

SCREENWRITING

Discipline**Disciplines List**

Media Production (Broadcasting Technology)

Broadcasting Technology (Film making/video, media production, radio/TV)

Film Studies

Modality

Face-to-Face

100% Online

Catalog Description

This course is a basic introduction to writing for the film and electronic media. Students will learn how to prepare scripts in proper formats for the various media, as well as explore conceptual and stylistic issues related to writing fiction and non-fiction scripts for informational and entertainment purposes. The course gives the students hands-on experience and significant critical feedback in developing, writing and re-writing original scripts for the film and electronic media.

Schedule Description

A basic introduction to writing scripts for the film and electronic media. Prerequisite: ENG 001A

Lecture Units

3

Lecture Semester Hours

54

Lab Units

0

In-class Hours

54

Out-of-class Hours

108

Total Course Units

3

Total Semester Hours

162

Prerequisite Course(s)

ENG 001A

Required Text and Other Instructional Materials**Resource Type**

Book

Author

Walter, Richard

Title

Essentials of Screenwriting: the Art, Craft and Business of Film and Television Writing

Edition

Revised

Publisher

Plume

Year

2010

College Level

Yes

Resource Type

Book

Author

Robert McKee

Title

Story

Edition

1st

City

New York

Publisher

Harper Collins

Year

1997

College Level

Yes

ISBN #

0060391685

Resource Type

Book

Author

Irwin Blacker

Title

The Elements of Screenwriting

Edition

1st

Publisher

Pearson

Year

1996

ISBN #

002861450X

For Text greater than five years old, list rationale:

Screenwriting is a classic process that has been translated by many authors over the years. The king of all of them is John Howard Lawson whose Theory and Technique of Playwriting and Screenwriting, Putnam, 1949 is the standard text from which most principles are derived. This class will use a custom textbook utilizing chapters from the three books listed. Each is older than 5 years old and while each is still relevant, the synergy of the three voices will allow for discussion and understanding of both the classic elements and each writer's unique take on the art of Screenwriting.

Class Size Maximum

24

Entrance Skills

Find, read, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize outside sources, including online information.

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Find, read, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize outside sources, including online information.

Entrance Skills

Read, analyze, and interpret varied texts (i.e. literature, digital forms, visual).

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Read, analyze, and interpret varied texts (i.e. literature, digital forms, visual).

Entrance Skills

Develop ideas coherently in writing through the drafting process.

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Develop ideas coherently in writing through the drafting process.

Entrance Skills

Participate in the process of developing texts in collaborative and individual settings.

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Participate in the process of developing texts in collaborative and individual settings.

Entrance Skills

Incorporate complex sentence-structure and variety of word choice.

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Incorporate complex sentence-structure and variety of word choice.

Entrance Skills

Recognize and integrate creative elements of style (metaphor, analogy, voice, tone).

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Recognize and integrate creative elements of style (metaphor, analogy, voice, tone).

Entrance Skills

Use writing reference materials and handbooks to perfect documentation skills with few errors.

Requisite Course Objectives

ENG 001A-Use writing reference materials and handbooks to perfect documentation skills with few errors.

Course Content

- Writing regardless of medium or format – clarity, economy, grammar, style
- Issues specific to writing for different media including radio (writing for the ear), film and television (writing for the eye), multimedia (writing for the ear, the eye, and interactivity)
- Introduction to content for the various media – e.g., commercials, PSAs, corporate productions, documentaries, web sites, fictional narratives (film, half-hour TV comedy, one-hour TV drama)
- Script formats – including, but not limited to radio, two-column video, film, sitcom
- Point of View & Creative Choice
- Concept, Idea & Story
- Fundamentals of dramatic structure, including conflict
- Fundamentals of character creation
- Fundamentals of dialogue writing
- Process and methodology of script writing (including outlines, treatments, etc.)
- Good Writing Habits and the Business of Writing

Course Objectives

	Objectives
Objective 1	Identify and demonstrate the elements of screenwriting story structure including genre, plot, character, setting, conflict and crisis that are required to successfully craft an original short narrative screenplay.
Objective 2	Identify and demonstrate the elements of screenwriting format required to successfully and professionally formatted original short narrative screenplay.
Objective 3	Identify and demonstrate the critical thinking skills required to successfully self and peer evaluate a professionally formatted original short narrative screenplay.

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:
Outcome 1	Craft an original short narrative screenplay.
Outcome 2	Professionally format an original short narrative screenplay.
Outcome 3	Self and peer evaluate a professionally formatted original short narrative screenplay.

Methods of Instruction

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each instructional method will be used in this course.
Activity	Determining point of view and audience. Pitching story ideas, developing the narrative through outline, treatment and script. Presenting scripts to class for critique.

Self-exploration	Who am I? What is my point of view? Why must I share it? Who is my audience?
Observation	Read, listen to and critique each other's work. Watch scenes from feature films, television episodes and webisodic series
Lecture	Point of View and Audience Story Structure Screen Media Formats Techniques and Styles.
Experiential	Independent Writing.
Discussion	Read and discuss styles, techniques and screen media formats Screen and discuss films, scenes from films.
Collaborative/Team	Reading from screenplay.

Methods of Evaluation

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each evaluation method will be used in this course.	Type of Assignment
Written homework	Weekly assignments including pitches, outlines, treatments, scenes, visualizations and a completed draft of short screenplay.	In and Out of Class
Product/project development evaluation	Craft a professionally formatted original short narrative screenplay. This will be done in process beginning with pitch, premise and weekly assignments based on each element of screenwriting culminating in a first and second draft of the screenplay.	In and Out of Class
Group activity participation/observation	Sharing pitches, outlines, scenes, visualizations with the class.	In and Out of Class
Presentations/student demonstration observations	In class critiques by fellow students and instructor of student's pitches, outlines, scenes, visualizations.	In and Out of Class
Critiques	In class critiques by fellow students and instructor of student's pitches, outlines, scenes, visualizations, etc.	In and Out of Class

Assignments

Other In-class Assignments

Students work independently and in teams on screenwriting exercises.

Students work independently and in teams developing outlines, scenes and other building blocks of their stories.

Students present readings from their work to the class.

Students present visualizations of their work to the class.

Other Out-of-class Assignments

Students enter the course with an idea for a narrative screen story that they will pitch.

Students develop their ideas into screen stories through outline and screenplay form using the building blocks they create in class.

Students view films, television episodes and webisodic programming, prepare for class discussion.

Students create presentations of their work for class.

Grade Methods

Letter Grade Only

Distance Education Checklist

Instructional Materials and Resources

If you use any other technologies in addition to the college LMS, what other technologies will you use and how are you ensuring student data security?

The course will use Netflix, Amazon, FilmStruck, Kanopy and other online streaming services which are password-protected, providing students with robust online security.

If used, explain how specific materials and resources outside the LMS will be used to enhance student learning.

Students will be required to screen films from one or more streaming video platforms, such as Netflix, Amazon, FilmStruck or Kanopy. Screening of films online allows the student to see demonstrations of screenplays brought to the screen so as to gain mastery of this subject. These online streaming services provide students access to extensive libraries of critically acclaimed feature motion pictures, including Hollywood classics and recent international and independent films. The SLOs and course objectives of FILM 003 (formerly RTV 009) Screenwriting are based to a good degree on watching, analyzing and interpreting feature motion pictures and their screenplays, so the use of Netflix and Amazon, already popular among students, is a logical choice and the adoption of other streaming film platforms such as FilmStruck and Kanopy, is an expansion of this important tool.

Effective Student/Faculty Contact

Which of the following methods of regular, timely, and effective student/faculty contact will be used in this course?

Within Course Management System:

Timely feedback and return of student work as specified in the syllabus
Discussion forums with substantive instructor participation
Chat room/instant messaging
Regular virtual office hours
Private messages
Online quizzes and examinations
Weekly announcements

External to Course Management System:

Posted audio/video (including YouTube, 3cm mediasolutions, etc.)

Briefly discuss how the selected strategies above will be used to maintain Regular Effective Contact in the course.

- Private messaging in Canvas will allow the professor to give personal feedback to each student every week on quizzes and/or homework assignments.
- Regular virtual office hours will give students the opportunity to reach out to the professor with questions or concerns, or to follow up on feedback.
- Online quizzes and examinations include feedback from the professor and the opportunity for student interaction.
- Timely feedback and return of student work lets each student know their progress as each module is mastered.
- Posted YouTube audio/video is part of each homework assignment, and is integrated into the Canvas LMS.
- Weekly Announcements in Canvas alert students to upcoming assignments, discussions and quizzes. Students will be encouraged to configure the Canvas app to give them real-time alerts of posted notifications and due dates.
- Discussion Forums with substantive instructor participation, particularly for the term project, invite students to interact with each other and the instructor in analysis and interpretation of films.

If interacting with students outside the LMS, explain how additional interactions with students outside the LMS will enhance student learning.

N/A

Other Information**Comparable Transfer Course Information****University System**

CSU

Campus

San Jose State University

Course Number

RTVF160

Course Title

Introduction to Screenwriting

Catalog Year

2018

Rationale

Similar implementation, process and outcomes. "Basic principles and practices in writing scripts for film and/or television."

University System

CSU

Campus

CSU Los Angeles

Course Number

TVF 2650

Course Title

Introduction to Scriptwriting

Catalog Year

2018

Rationale

Similar implementation, process and outcomes. "Basic techniques of short screenplay structure and storytelling. Script development from an original story concept through synopsis, story treatment, outline, plot and character development, culminating in an original short script."

MIS Course Data**CIP Code**

50.0601 - Film/Cinema/Video Studies.

TOP Code

060420 - Television (including combined TV/film/video)

SAM Code

C - Clearly Occupational

Basic Skills Status

Not Basic Skills

Prior College Level

Not applicable

Cooperative Work Experience

Not a Coop Course

Course Classification Status

Credit Course

Approved Special Class

Not special class

Noncredit Category

Not Applicable, Credit Course

Funding Agency Category

Not Applicable

Program Status

Program Applicable

Transfer Status

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Allow Audit

No

Repeatability

No

Materials Fee

No

Additional Fees?

No

Files Uploaded**Attach relevant documents (example: Advisory Committee or Department Minutes)**

FILM 003 Approval letter.pdf

Approvals**Curriculum Committee Approval Date**

12/03/2019

Academic Senate Approval Date

12/12/2019

Board of Trustees Approval Date

1/17/2020

Course Control Number

CCC000598725

Programs referencing this courseFilm, Television, and Electronic Media AS-T (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=10/>)Basic Film Production Certificate of Achievement (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=149/>)Film Production AS Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=69/>)