



- A. Screenwriting satisfies the needs of a growing population of students who are interested in pursuing work in the film industry. Beyond creative writing skills, it is important to know how to structure the narrative story using industry terms and standards.
- B. The course allows the student to focus specifically on the craft of writing purposeful, well-versed stories.
- C. Screenwriting meets the needs of the students moving to advanced production courses and developing their digital video portfolio/resume for successful completion of the program.
- D. This course generally transfers as a Digital Media/Film Studies program elective.

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for Digital Media/Film Studies AS, and Digital Video Production Certificate.
- C. This course meets a program elective for Communication Studies AA.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Screenwriting structure, style and formatting
  - 1. Concepts
  - 2. Themes
  - 3. Loglines
- B. Dramatic structure
  - 1. Plot
  - 2. Three act Structure
  - 3. Organization of time
- C. Treatments and outlines
  - 1. Constructing the narrative synopsis
  - 2. Writing action
- D. Character and Dialogue
  - 1. Character Development
  - 2. Writing Dialogue
    - a. Research
- E. Screenplay format and conflict
- F. Writing Scenes and exposition
- G. Critical analysis and rewriting
- H. Documentaries, Docudrama and Multi-media
  - 1. Documentary Screenwriting
    - a. Building story in documentary
    - b. Research
- I. The business of screenwriting
  - 1. Pitches

## 2. Marketing

### VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

#### A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Listen and effectively communicate ideas through written and visual means (GE-1)
2. Demonstrate a sense of storytelling, particularly through cinematic techniques and scriptwriting vocabulary (GE-1)
3. Demonstrate comprehension of the basic concepts and techniques of modern script writing using compatible computer software such as Final Draft. (GE-4)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of visual literacy through an analysis of film and film screenplays (GE-6)
5. Develop research skills using library sources and the internet to compare and contrast various screenplay genre (GE-IL )

#### B. Course Learning Outcomes:

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify the major components of a well-conceived script
2. Define and use vocabulary pertinent to the analysis and construction of film and televisions screenplays
3. Demonstrate ability to use the written conventions of scriptwriting
4. Identify the importance of character
5. Articulate the relationship between script and visualization
6. Produce an original short screenplay or first act of a feature film screenplay that adheres to industry standards

#### C. Assessment Instruments

1. Weekly writing assignments
2. Oral presentations (story pitch sessions)
3. Scriptwriting using celtx.com, Final Draft of other word processing software

### VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Class Participation
- B. Scripts
- C. Presentations
- D. Homework
- E. Tests/quizzes
- F. Journals
- G. Essays

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Lecture/Discussion

- B. Screenings and film analysis
- C. Small-group work
- D. Student oral presentations
- E. Student collaboration
- F. Independent study
- G. Readings and handouts
- H. Improvisation
- I. Computer-assisted instruction
- J. Guest speakers

## **IX. Texts and Materials**

### **A. Suggested textbook(s):**

- *Save the Cat! (the last book on screenwriting that you'll ever need)*, by Blake Snyder
- *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*, by Syd Field
- *Story: Substance, Structure, Style and The Principles of Screenwriting*, Robert McKee
- *The Writers Journey*, Chris Vogler
- Open Educational Resources

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **X. Resources**

- A. Final Draft, [www.celtx.com](http://www.celtx.com), or other word processing software for screenplay format
- B. Websites for online film scripts
- C. Netflix or other streaming account
- D. DVD, or other multimedia for viewing film
- E. Screenplays, films and readings

## **XI. Honors Options [if relevant]**

**Not applicable.**