

Date: March 2006

- I. Course Name: Script Writing
Prefix and Number: COM 215
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours
Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of developing and writing scripts for film, television, and the live event. The course emphasizes theme, story, plot, dialogue, character arc, dramatic structure, script format, and the process of developing and writing a script. Prerequisite: ENG 102 or Permission of Instructor.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Learning Outcomes

1. Write basic scripts in a variety of formats for electronic media.
2. Understand the basic concepts and techniques of modern script writing.
3. Comprehend, analyze and produce original creative writing.
4. Develop a sense of storytelling, particularly through cinematic techniques.
5. Develop an appreciation of the goals and practices of writing for American television and film.

Relationship to Academic programs and curriculum

The course is an elective course; can be taken to fulfill part of the AS in Communications program.

College competencies addressed by the course

Oral Communication
Writing
Reading

Global Concerns
Ethics and Values
Professional Competency

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of Course materials

Textbook(s)

Methods of instruction

While literature, lecture, readings, and videotapes are used to introduce the student to theory and principles of script writing, the course, on the whole, is conducted as a writing workshop.

Assessment measures

1. Participation in class discussions to assess learning outcomes 2, 3 & 5.
2. Testing on the course readings to assess learning outcomes 2 & 3.
3. Completion of weekly writing assignments designed to test comprehension of and proficiency with course concepts.
4. Comment on the work of fellow students by offering feedback to assess learning outcomes 2, 3, 4 & 5.
5. Analysis of the dramatic components in assigned films or TV shows to assess learning outcomes 2, 3, 4 & 5.
6. Completion of a final project (a script for television or feature film) to assess learning outcomes 1 thru 5.

Methods of Evaluation

Students are evaluated on the basis of preparation, class presentations, class participation, written assignments, and exams. Evaluation is made on form, format, content, and performance, based on individual ability and improvement.

IV. General Outline of Topics covered

- A. Terminology, Concepts, Themes & Loglines
- B. Dramatic structure (3 acts / 4 acts)
- C. Beat Sheets, Treatments & Outlines
- D. Approaches to Developing Character and Dialogue
- E. Screenplay Format and Conflict
- F. Writing Scenes and Exposition
- G. Teleplay Structure - Sitcoms & Hour Dramas
- H. Rewriting
 - I. Soap, Talk Shows, Music, Variety and Live Event scripts
 - J. Documentaries, Docu-dramas and Multi-media
 - K. Subplots, Pitches, Troubleshooting, and Marketing