



## COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Course Number</b> <b>CMN144</b>	<b>Course Title</b> <b>Screenwriting</b>	<b>Credits</b> <b>3</b>
<b>Hours:</b> <b>Lecture/Lab/Other</b> <b>2 Lecture/ 2 Lab</b>	<b>Co- or Pre-requisite</b>	<b>Implementation</b> <b>Semester &amp; Year</b> <b>Fall 2022</b>

**Catalog description:** 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.

**General Education Category:** Not GenEd | **Course coordinator:** Barry Levy, 609-570-3465, levyb@mccc.edu

### **Required texts & Other materials:**

Save the Cat, Blake Snyder, Michael Wiese Productions, 2005, ISBN: 1932907009

### **Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

#### **Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:**

1. Discuss the importance of story [Supports ILG #1, 6, 8, 11 ; PLO #1, 3, 6 ]
2. Illustrate the importance of conflict in screenplay [ Supports ILG #1, 6, 8, 11 ; PLO #1, 3, 6 ]
3. Establish a methodology for screenwriting [Supports ILG #1, 6, 10, 11 ; PLO # 1, 3 ]
4. Develop an understanding of storytelling through critical concepts such as structure, substance and style [Supports ILG #1, 8, 10 ; PLO #1, 3, 6 ]
5. Develop new vocabulary related to screenwriting [Supports ILG #1, 8 10 ; PLO #1, 3, 6 ]
6. Demonstrate the ability to write dialogue in a screenplay [Supports ILG #1, 8; PLO #1,3,6 ]
7. Deconstruct and analyze current and historical screenplays [Supports ILG #1, 6, 8; PLO # 3 ]
8. Illustrate how to properly format a screenplay [Supports ILG #1, 4; PLO #1, 6 ]
9. Research, develop and write a 20-25 page screenplay [Supports ILG #1, 4, 6, 8; 10 PLO #1, 3, 6 ]

### **Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):**

**Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English.** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

**Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology.** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

**Institutional Learning 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.

**Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

**Institutional Learning Goal 10. 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.

**Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking:** Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

## **Program Learning Outcomes for Digital Film & Television (PLO)**

1. Write, produce, direct, and edit a variety of digital films and video productions.
2. Utilize digital and audio editing software to express their creative visions through vision and sound.
3. Analyze Films representing a wide range of historical and cultural perspectives.
4. Demonstrate technical proficiency in all aspects of a broadcast studio.
5. Manage the collaborative creative process, working within all aspects of the production process.
6. Create a professional portfolio to serve in the pursuit of further education or employment.

## **Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:**

### **Unit I      **Screenplay** [Supports Course SLO # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

#### ***The student will be able to:***

- Identify and define status quo in screenplay
- Define the function of settings on a narrative in a screenplay
- Identify key terms associated with screenplay writing.
- Research examples of well written screenplays
- Research examples of poorly written screenplays
- Deconstruct a beat, scene, sequence, act and story of a screenplay
- Describe the evolution of screenplay through different generations and the impact on our society & culture

### **Unit II      **Elements of Story** [Supports Course SLOs #1, 2, 3, 4 ,5, 6 ,7, 8]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

#### ***The student will be able to:***

- Explain the structure spectrum in screenplay writing
- Describe the value of each act in a screenplay format.
- Describe and detail the difference between a full- length feature film and a short film.
- Describe and detail the importance of setting in screenplay structure
- Explain the importance of genre in screenplay structure
- Explain the importance of character in screenplay structure

### **Unit III      **Principles of Story Design** [Supports Course SLOs #1, 2, 3, 4 ,5, 6 ,7, 8]**

#### **Learning Objectives**

#### ***The student will be able to:***

- Describe the substance of a story
- Create an effective inciting incident
- Analyze their own scenes
- Deconstruct scenes from classic films
- Establish conflict in scenes
- Deconstruct a scene looking for changes in emotional conflict

- Discuss the importance of crisis, climax and resolution

**Unit IV Structure** [Supports Course SLOs #1, 2, 3, 4 ,5, 6 ,7, 8]

**Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Describe and discuss the principle of antagonism
- Describe and discuss the importance of a protagonist
- Illustrate the value of expectational gaps in scenes
- Differentiate between exposition and dialogue
- Create a “empathetic” character
- Describe the importance of act breaks in a screenplay
- Develop a step outline
- Describe the difference between text and subtext

**Unit V Writing the Screenplay** [Supports Course SLOs #1, 2, 3, 4 ,5, 6 ,7, 8, 9]

**Learning Objectives**

***The student will be able to:***

- Research, defend and present a story concept
- Describe the importance of theme in a screenplay
- Write a step outline and treatment
- Recall and demonstrate proper screenplay formatting
- Write a properly formatted 20 page screenplay

**Evaluation of Student Learning**

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

<b>Evaluation Tools</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Journal Entries & Film Analysis Reports	10%
Quizzes , formatting assignments & Oral Presentations (Pitches)	10%
Short Writing Assignments	25%
Short Film Research, Outline & Treatment	20%
Final Project – Write a 20 minute short film screenplay	25%
Class Participation & Growth	10%