

Montgomery County Community College
COM 226
Scriptwriting
3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class builds on scriptwriting skills introduced in COM 126 as students develop an increased ability to present their ideas using a variety of methods and techniques of scriptwriting. Students analyze film and television scripts, styles and genres, and develop their understanding of audience as they work to find a writing voice. Students create a treatment, character bible, and script. They explore copyright, registration, employment, and guild issues and are introduced to the business of scriptwriting. During the workshop students read their work and listen to comments and critiques from their peers and faculty. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

REQUISITES:*Previous Course Requirements*

- COM 112 Survey of Mass Media Industries in the United States
- COM 126 Introduction to Scriptwriting with a minimum grade of 'C'

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Write a treatment, and scenario for a three-act television or film script.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio
2. Present successful elevator pitch, based on a written log line, treatment and demographic statement.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Write four complete back-stories and character bibles.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio
4. Present the story arc and discuss the narrative structure of a script.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio
5. Write a three-act television or film script.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Understanding the Audience to Better Define the Script
2. Refining the Pitch, Log Line, and Tag
3. Using the Treatment to Develop the Scenario and Plot Points
4. Refining Characters. Building an Effective Back-Story and Character Bible
5. Creating the Narrative Structure. Mapping the Story Arc
6. Writing the First Scene. Developing Three Complete Acts
7. Introduction to the Business of Scriptwriting
8. Final Presentation

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Field, Syd. (2005). *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*. Delta.

Field, Syd. (2006). *The Screenwriter's Workbook*. Delta.

Brass Brad fasteners

Cover Stock

Recommended: Final Draft 8 Scriptwriting software

In addition, the instructor may provide students with handouts or access to selected Radio or Television programs or clips.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Note: COM226 was created from deleted courses COM220 and COM221; refer to these courses for prior history.

Prepared by: Neil Goldstein

Date: 5/15/2015

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification:

Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 3/7/2016

Revised by: Debbie Dalrymple

Date: 1/10/2018

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 1/10/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.