

Montgomery County Community College

MSP 226
Screenwriting II
3-2-2**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class builds on scriptwriting skills introduced in MSP 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*

- MSP 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. | Review professional treatments Class readings Class lectures Class discussions Treatment drafts | Script Treatments Film Scenario |

| LEARNING OUTCOMES | LEARNING ACTIVITIES | EVALUATION METHODS |
|---|--|---|
| 2. Present successful elevator pitch, based on a written log line, treatment and demographic statement. | Professional pitch examples Class reading Class lectures Class discussion Treatment drafts Pitch practice | Pitches Treatments |
| 3. Write four complete back-stories and character bibles. | Professional examples Class lectures Class discussion Character Bible drafts | Character Bible Backstory assignment |
| 4. Present the story arc and discuss the narrative structure of a script. | Class reading Class lecture Class discussion Film examples | Treatments Scripts Script Coverage |
| 5. Write a three-act television or film script. | Class reading Professional script reading Script Coverage Script drafts | Scripts Script Coverage Digital 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 Director of Educational Effectiveness. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

INSTRUCTIONAL TOPICS:

1. Understanding the audience
2. Refining the pitch, log line, and Tag
3. Using the treatment to develop the scenario and plot points
4. Building an effective backstory and Character Bible
5. Creating narrative structure and story arc
6. Developing three complete acts
7. Introduction to the business of scriptwriting

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Required

- Riley, Christopher. (2021). *The Hollywood Standard – Third Edition: The complete and authoritative guide to script format and style*. Michael Wiese Productions.
- Final Draft 13 scriptwriting software

Recommended

- Weston, Judith (2021). *Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television*
- Kazan, Elia (2010). *Kazan on Directing*

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: MSP/COM 226 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: Allan Schear/Therol Dix

Date: 9/7/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed. D.

Date: 11/1/2017

Revised by: Yaniv Aronson

Date: 4/15/2025

VPAA or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 4/16/2025



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.