

COURSE SYLLABUS

ENG 330: Writing the Screenplay

Course Description

Screenwriting will teach students how to analyze screenplays as a form of literature distinct from fiction and poetry. Students will learn how to analyze screenplays in terms of characterization, setting, dialogue, point of view, and plot. They will apply their analytical skills to writing an essay, defending the quality and ability of a particular screenplay in conveying a story through these elements. They will apply their skills to writing their own original screenplays, developing their own creative and analytical thinking abilities.

General Course Information

Number of Units/Weeks	4/10
#Hours Lecture/#Hours Laboratory/#Hours Homework	40/0/81.9
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 110
Co-requisites (s)	None
Course Developer(s)	Ryan Willingham, MFA Creative Writing BA English & Film Studies
Date Approved / Last Review	June 2014 / September 2014

Learning Outcomes

1. Examine screenplays for craft elements.
2. Implement an understanding of screenplay formatting.
3. Distinguish screenplay plot structure.
4. Argue your understanding of screenwriting techniques.
5. Develop an Original screenplay.

Instructional Methods Employed in this Course

- Lecture and reading assignments
- Hands-on exercises and labs
- Research
- Group presentation on textual analysis
- Practical application of theory and skills in authentic projects
- Build on prior knowledge and experience of students to enhance richness of class activities

Information Resources for this Course



Textbook

Field, Syd. (2005) Screenplay The Foundations of Screenwriting. New York: Bantam Dell.

Field, Syd. (2006) Four Screenplays: Studies in the American Screenplay. New York: Bantam Dell.



Other Materials

EBSCO and other library databases.



Web Site Readings

None

Table/Topics & Assignments

Types of Assignments:

Lecture -

Considered Lecture Hours

Classroom Discussion -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class Critique -

Considered Lecture Hours

Delivering Oral Presentations -

Considered Lecture Hours

In Class (IC) Exercise -

Considered Lecture Hours

Reading -

Considered homework (HW), work done outside of class

WebClass lesson (non-online courses) -

Considered HW, work done outside of class

Lab Work -

Considered Lab Hours

Quiz, Midterm or Final -

Considered Lecture Hours

Week 1						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due

LEC 1A	Discuss Syllabus	1				
IC EX 1A	Watch film and discuss.	3				
HW 1A	Read Chapter 1-2 Read Ch.1-2 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP 1B			4.4		Week 2
HW 1B	Film & Ch. Response			1	20	Week 2
Total Week 1		4	0	5.4	20	
Week 2						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 2A	Ch.1-2 Screenplay & Subject.	2				
IC EX 2A	Screenplay Group Ex. Watch Film and discuss.	2				
HW 2A	Read Ch.3-4. Read Ch.3-4 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP2B.			4.5		Week 3
HW 2B	Character Profile			1	50	Week 3
Total Week 2		4	0	5.5	50	
Week 3						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 3A	Discuss Ch.3-4 Developing Characters.	2				
IC EX 3A	Watch Film & Discuss.	2				
HW 3A	Read Ch.5-6. Read Ch.5-6 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP 3B			5.8		Week 4
HW 3B	Rough Draft Research Essay			13	50	Week 4
Total Week 3		4	0	18.8	50	
Week 4						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 4A	Discuss Ch.5-6 Plot, Character, Beginnings and Endings.	2				

IC EX 4A	Workshop research essays. Watch Film and discuss.	2				
HW 4A	Read Ch.7-8 Read Ch.7-8 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by Research Essay			6		Week 5
HW 4B	Research Essay Final Draft			2	250	Week 5
Total Week 4		4	0	8	250	
Week 5						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 5A	Discuss Ch.7-8 Set up Story & Conflict Points.	2				
IC EX 5A	Screenplay Group Ex. Watch Film and discuss.	2				
HW 5A	Read Ch.9-10. Read Ch.9-10 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP5B			5.9		Week 6
HW 5B	Scene Analysis			1	30	Week 6
Total Week 5		4	0	6.9	30	
Week 6						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 6A	Discuss Ch.9-10 Plot Points & Scene Construction.	2				
IC EX 6A	Screenplay Group Ex. Watch Film and Discuss.	2				
HW 6A	Read Ch.11-12. Read Ch.11-12 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by Storyline Timeline			5.7		Week 7
HW 6B	Storyline Timeline			1	50	Week 7
Total Week 6		4	0	6.7	50	
Week 7						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due

LEC 7A	Discuss Ch.11-12 Sequence & Building Storylines.	2				
IC EX 7A	Watch Film & Discuss	2				
HW 7A	Read Ch.13-14. Read Ch. 13-14 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP7B.			6.6		Week 8
HW 7B	Original Screenplay Rough Draft			8	50	Week 8
Total Week 7		4	0	14.6	50	
Week 8						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 8A	Discuss Ch.13-14 Screenplay Formatting	2				
IC EX 8A	Workshop Scripts. Watch Film & Discuss.	2				
HW 8A	Read Ch.15-16. Read Ch.15-16 <i>Four Screenplays</i> . Evaluated by ELP8B.			5.6		Week 9
HW 8B	Script Final Draft Due			4	400	Week 9
Total Week 8		4	0	9.6	400	
Week 9						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 9A	Discuss Ch.15-16 Adaptation & Writing Collaboration	2				
IC EX 9A	Watch Film & Discuss	2				
HW 9A	Read Ch.17-18. Read Ch.17-20 <i>Four Screenplays</i>			6.4		Week 10
HW 9B						
Total Week 9		4	0	6.4	0	
Week 10						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 10A	Discuss Ch.17-18 Post Script Steps	2				
IC EX 10A	Discuss Script Grades	2				

	and Comments.					
Total Week 10		4	0	0	0	

Course Hours Summary

Week	Topic	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours
1	Discuss Syllabus, Watch & Discuss Film	4		5.4
2	Screenplay and choosing subject	4		5.5
3	Developing Character	4		18.8
4	Plot, Character, & Beginnings and Endings	4		8
5	Set up Story & Conflict Points	4		6.9
6	Plot Points & Scene Construction	4		6.7
7	Sequence Building & Storylines	4		14.6
8	Screenplay Format	4		9.6
9	Adaptation & Writing Collaboration	4		6.4
10	Post Script Steps	4		
Total		40		81.9

Table/Point Breakdown

Week	Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Grade
1			
2	Film & Ch.1-2 Response	20	2%
3	Character Profile	50	5%
4	Rough Draft Research Essay	50	5%
5	Research Essay	250	25%
6	Scene Analysis	30	3%
7	Storyline Timeline	50	5%
8	Rough Draft Screenplay	50	5%
9	Final Draft Original Screenplay	400	40%
10			
	Participation	100	10%
Total		1000	100%

Your Grades for this Course

Your final grade for this course will be based on an assessment by the Instructor of your performance on a number of course activities, which may include objective tests, classroom exercises, laboratory demonstrations, project papers, or other types of activities. The chart below indicates in what activities you will engage, how many possible points can be earned for each activity, and the percentage of your final grade that will be accounted for by each activity.

Students in this course should be graded following Coleman University assessment practices and policies. A point system is used in the University to indicate student performance on various required activities or projects. For this course, it is recommended that points be distributed as follows:

Coleman University Grade Assignment Policy:

Percent	Letter Grade	Grade Points
94-100	A	4
90-93	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
84-86	B	3
80-83	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
74-76	C	2
70-73	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
64-66	D	1
60-63	D-	0.67
N/A	INC	0
N/A	W	0
60 or above	CR	0
59 or below	NC	0
N/A	I	0
N/A	W	0
N/A	AU	0
N/A	TR	0
N/A	WV	0

Legend	
CR = Credit	NC = No Credit
I = Incomplete	W = Course Withdrawal
AU = Audit	TR = Transfer Credit

WV = Waiver	
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Academic Accommodation / Adjustment Policy:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Coleman University offers accommodations to students with documented physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disabilities. Coleman University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to offer equal educational opportunities to qualified disabled individuals.

To qualify for an academic accommodation under ADA, the student must provide adequate documentation of a disability. Students seeking academic accommodations should contact the campus ADA Coordinator at 858-966-3953 or via email at ada@coleman.edu. The ADA Coordinator will review the documentation provided and verify ADA coverage. Students covered under ADA must meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term to determine the appropriate academic accommodations. Failing to meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term may impact the availability of accommodations.

After the academic accommodations have been determined, the students' instructors will be notified by the ADA Coordinator. If any problems or concerns regarding the provision of accommodations occur, the student must inform the ADA Coordinator. If the student feels accommodation is not being made appropriately, the student may follow the published Student Grievance Procedures.