

MJS-2310: SCREENWRITING I

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: MJS-2310 : Screenwriting I

Board of Trustees:

June 2017

Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

MJS - Media and Journalism Studies

Course Number:

2310

Title:

Screenwriting I

Catalog Description:

Provides an introduction to screenwriting for feature films.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

2

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I; and MJS-1010 Media and Communications or MJS-1310 Film appreciation, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Write a short producible/publishable screenplay.

Objective(s):

1. Identify and use the basic components of a screenplay to develop a workable premise, an outline or paradigm for an original screenplay.
2. Define and explain the format of a screenplay including style, terminology and length of presentation.
3. Evaluate and critique original works of self and others and rewrite the short screenplay.

Course Outcome(s):

Create a variety of types of characters and develop dialogue to demonstrate believable individual personality, growth, strength, and will for each.

Objective(s):

1. Differentiate between the various types of characters.
 2. Use dialogue and action to create a believable character that grows and changes in the course of the script.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Student writing samples.
2. Class Participation
3. Final Screenplay

Course Content Outline:

1. Storytelling and Writing Basics
 - a. Essentials of Storytelling
 - i. The question/problem
 - ii. The main character/s
 - b. Descriptive Writing
 - i. Word pictures
 - ii. Strong verbs
 - iii. Colorful writing
 - iv. Economy
2. Structure of a Screenplay
 - a. The premise
 - b. The acts
 - c. Origin of action
 - d. Turning points, climax, resolution
 - e. Outlines
 - f. Rising action
 - g. Subplots
3. Character Development for a Screenplay
 - a. Types
 - i. Protagonist
 - ii. Antagonist
 - iii. Catalyst characters
 - iv. Supporting characters
 - b. Dialogue and action
 - i. Character personality/believability
 - ii. Growth and change
 - iii. Strength and will
4. Format of a Screenplay
 - a. Style of written presentation
 - b. Terminology
 - c. Length
5. The screenplay
 - a. Development of the storyline
 - b. Development of the protagonist/antagonist
 - c. Evaluate and critique
 - d. Rewrite the short screenplay

Resources

Field, Syd. *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*. Revised ed. . New York, Delta Trade Paperbacks, 2005.

Silver-Lasky, Pat. *Screenwriting for the 21st Century*. New York: Sterling, 2004.

Gulino, Paul Joseph. *Screenwriting: The Sequence Approach*. New York: Continuum, 2004.

Sangster, Jimmy. *Screenwriting: Techniques for Success*. Richmond, Surrey: Reynolds and Hearn, 2003.

Walker, Michael Chase. *Power Screewriting: The 12 Stages of Story Development*. Hollywood: Lone Eagle Pub, 2002.

Resources Other

1. Published screenplays, films, screenwriting magazines

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