COURSE SYLLABUS

Tunxis Community College

Education That Works For a Lifetime

Course Title:	**Special Topics: Creative Writing: Screenwriting**	**Date submitted:**	**5/16/06** (06-43)
Department:	**English and Humanities**		
Curriculum:	**Creative Writing**		

Course Descriptors: Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.

Course Code: (eg. ACC 101)	**ENG*298**
Course Type:	**L or D**

A: Clinical B: Lab D: Distance Learning I: Individual/Independent L: Lecture M: Seminar N: Internship P: Practicum U: Studio X: Combined Lecture/Lab Y: Combined Lecture/Clinical/Lab Z: Combined Lecture/Studio

Credit Hours:		**3**
Developmental: (yes/no)		**no**
Contact Hours:	Lecture	**3**
	Clinical	
	Lab	**0**
	Studio	
	Other	**0**
	TOTAL	3
Class Maximum:		**21**
Semesters Offered:		

Prerequisites:

Prerequisite: B- or better in Composition or permission of Department Chair.

Corequisites:

None

Other Requirements:

None

Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement

At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students' success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability.

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to the standard practices of screenwriting. Students will analyze cinematic techniques and character and plot development in films and screenplays. Students will practice writing in an accepted screenwriting format and share their work in a workshop environment. Students will write treatments, "pitch" project proposals, and create storyboards that visually communicate their ideas to others. Prerequisite: B- or better in Composition or permission of Department Chair

Topical Outline: List course content in outline format.

1. Overview of standard formats of screenplays and genres
2. Exposition, conflict and resolution
3. The three-act structure
4. Managing sub-plots and multiple storylines
5. Writing the scene
6. Writing effective dialogue
7. Creating main and supporting characters
8. Creating conflict with complications and reversals
9. Reducing tensions

	10. Writing the short script 11. Peer review and rewriting 12. Treatments and loglines 13. Storyboarding action 14. Pitching the project 15. Writing scripts in the corporate environment
Outcomes: Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.	**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:** **COURSE:** 1. Identify effective techniques for developing characters and plots in films and manuscripts and execute them in scripts 2. Write scripts that conform to standard screenwriting formats 3. Communicate a story idea in an oral presentation 4. Express a story visually 5. Identify and evaluate elements of screenwriting including dialogue, plot, and character development
	PROGRAM: N/A
	GENERAL EDUCATION:
Evaluation: List how the above outcomes will be assessed.	**Assessment will be based on the following criteria:** 1. 3-5 page short screenplay 2. Treatment(s) and logline(s) 3. Oral presentation(s) 4. 20-30 page screenplay 5. Storyboard 6. Written and oral critiques of peers
Instructional Resources: List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.	**Required:** ***Final Draft* scriptwriting software (or other standard scripting software)** **Computer Classroom** **Desired:** None
Textbook(s)	Textbook suggestions include the following: *The Screenwriter's Bible* by David Trottier, *Elements of Style for Screenwriters* by Paul Argentini**, ,** *Writing Great Characters: The Psychology of Character Development in Screenplays* by Michael Halperin, *The Screenwriter's Workbook* by Sid Field, *Story: Substance, Structure, Style and The Principles of Screenwriting* by Robert McKee