## COURSE SYLLABUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title:</th>
<th>Screenwriting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum:</td>
<td>Communication</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Course Code: COM*211  
**Course Type:** L/D  
- A: Clinical  
- B: Lab  
- D: Distance Learning  
- I: Individual/Independent  
- L: Lecture  
- N: Internship  
- M: Seminar  
- P: Practicum  
- U: Studio  
- X: Combined Lecture/Lab  
- Y: Combined Lecture/Studio  

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

#### Credit Hours: 3  
- Developmental: No  
- Lecture: 3  
- Clinical: 0  
- Lab: 0  
- Studio: 0  
- Other: 0  
- TOTAL: 3

### Corequisites:  
None

### Prerequisites:  
C- or better in Composition (ENG*101)

### Elective Type: E/G/HU/LAS  
- AH: Art History  
- E: English  
- FA: Fine Arts  
- FL: Foreign Language  
- G: General  
- HI: History  
- HU: Humanities  
- LAS: Liberal Arts & Sciences  
- M: Math  
- S: Science  
- SS: Social Science

### Contact Hours:  
- Lecture: 3  
- Clinical: 0  
- Lab: 0  
- Studio: 0  
- Other: 0  
- TOTAL: 3

### Class Maximum: 21  
Semesters Offered: F/S/Su

### Catalog Course Description:  
An introduction to the standard practices of screenwriting. Students will analyze cinematic techniques along with 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 analyze storyboards that visually communicate ideas to others. This course will serve as an English elective.

### Topical Outline:  
List course content in outline format.

1. Introducing standard formats  
2. Analyzing exposition, conflict and resolution  
3. Utilizing 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. Producing conflict, complications, and reversals  
9. Reducing tensions
| Outcomes: | Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content. |

| Evaluation: | List how the above outcomes will be assessed. |

| 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. |

| Textbook(s) | Recommended Texts: |

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### Outcomes:
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. identify and evaluate elements of screenwriting including dialogue, plot, and character development

**PROGRAM:** *(Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)*
N/A

**GENERAL EDUCATION:** *(Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)*

1. **Aesthetic Dimensions** - Students will understand the diverse nature, meanings, and functions of creative endeavors through the study and practice of literature, music, the theatrical and visual arts, and related forms of expression.
   - Demonstrates: Identifies and describes formal aspects, historical or cultural context, and aesthetic elements of the genre with clarity and appropriate vocabulary.
   - Does Not Demonstrate: Unable to clearly identify and describe the formal aspects, historical context, and aesthetic elements of the genre.

**Assessment will be based on the following criteria:**
1. treatment & character biographies
2. oral presentation
3. 20-30 page screenplay
4. analysis of produced screenplays and films

### Instructional Resources:
Required: None
Desired: Scriptwriting software such as Celtx or Final Draft

### Textbook(s):
- "The Screenwriter's Workbook" by Sid Field
- "Save the Cat!" by Blake Snyder