GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 11/29/2022

Approved by GCCCD Governing Board: 12/13/2022

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS 118 – MEDIA SCRIPT WRITING

 1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

MCOM 118 Media Script Writing 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture (48-54 hours); 96-108 outside-of-class hours; 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This is an introductory course in writing for film and digital media. Emphasis is placed on preparing scripts in proper formats, including fundamental technical, conceptual, and stylistic issues related to writing fiction and non-fiction scripts for informational and entertainment purposes. It includes writing evaluation as a significant course requirement.

4. Course Objectives

The students will:

1. Demonstrate competence in the mechanics of clear and concise writing.
2. Evaluate technical and aesthetic issues related to writing for film and digital media.
3. Conceptualize and demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of narrative fiction screenwriting.
4. Utilize a variety of script formats, including the radio script, two-column video script, film screenplay formats.
5. Conceptualize, formulate, and create a complete short fictional narrative film or television script.

5. Instructional Facilities

1. Standard classroom
2. Computer workstation(s) with scripting software

6. Special Materials Required of Student

High-capacity portable media storage drive

7. Course Content

1. Writing techniques appropriate to medium or format, emphasizing clarity, economy, grammar, and style.
2. Issues specific to writing for radio, film and television, and digital sources, including multimedia.
3. Script formats, including two-column video, film, and screenplay.
4. Introduction to content for the various media such as commercials, PSAs, corporate productions, documentaries, websites, and fictional narratives (film, half-hour TV comedy, one-hour TV drama, and feature films).
5. Fundamentals of character creation, dialogue writing, and dramatic structure, including conflict.
6. Process and methodology of script writing, including outlines, and treatments.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lectures
2. Audio/visual presentation(s)
3. Peer-to-peer discussion in class and online
4. Instructor and peer critique
5. Computer software demonstration
6. In-class writing assignments
7. Guest speakers

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes and written exams, including a final exam.
2. Instructor evaluation of writing assignments for pitch, initial presentation, treatment, etc.
3. In-class comparative analysis of writing progress presentations.
4. Final screenplay and script.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Writing exercises such as commercials and narrative scripts.
2. Preparation for oral presentations on topics such as pitching the script, rising action conflict, etc.
3. Research on screenplay topics.
4. Assigned text reading.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Text(s):
2. Hueth, Alan C. *Scriptwriting for Film, Television and New Media*. Routledge, 2019.
3. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Identify and propose ideas for short screenplays using picture and sound elements.
2. Plan and construct a screenplay with industry-standard formatting two-column and film-style formatting.
3. Describe characters, settings, and actions with unique visual and aural details in a written format.
4. Use industry terms and processes to create effective screenplay(s) and script(s) in film-style format.
5. Identify, analyze, and discuss elements of professional screenwriting and scripts.