

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** FILM 153 **TITLE:** Screenwriting
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU
AA/AS Degree Requirements:
 CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities
CSU GE:
 CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:
 Study of the craft of writing screenplays, with emphasis on narrative film. Instruction and practice in devising film ideas, developing a film premise, structuring film stories, preparing character biographies, developing scenes, creating dialogue, and preparing a professional film script.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. Demonstrate ability to use the written conventions of scriptwriting.
 2. Identify the major components of a well-conceived narrative script.
 3. Demonstrate familiarity with scriptwriting vocabulary.
 4. Articulate the relationship between script and visualization.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Learn the different technical aspects of screenwriting for cinema.
 2. Complete a short narrative screenplay, or the first 30 pages of a feature film screenplay.
 3. Develop a deeper understanding of how a script's text and subtext contribute to the various meanings of a film.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 This course is designed to be an introduction to the art and craft of narrative screenwriting. Through the study of various screenplays, and the films made from them, the course analyzes the basics of film storytelling. Through student writing projects and workshops, the course explores the significance of narrative, dramatic structure, character and theme. The course also focuses on what makes writing for narrative cinema unique.

7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**
 Typical methods of instruction may include:
 - A. Lecture
 - B. Discussion
 - C. Other (Specify): Lectures, screenings, discussion; group writing workshops; assigned readings and screenings outside of class; video-feedback, live acting, improvisation, adjustment, discussion; close in-class readings and discussion of published screenplays, etc.

8. **REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**
 Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:
Writing Assignments:
 Group writing workshops; various writing assignments, reflecting all stages of screenplay writing are due each week for workshop discussion and instructor evaluation, culminating in final screenplay project, evaluated by instructor.
Reading Assignments:

Close in-class readings and discussion of published screenplays, etc.

Other Outside Assignments:

Assigned screenings.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Homework
- E. Papers
- F. Quizzes
- G. Various writing assignments, reflecting all stages of screenplay writing, are due each week, for workshop discussion and instructor evaluation, culminating in final screenplay project, evaluated by instructor.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Seger, Linda. *Making a Good Script Great*, 3rd ed. Silman-James, 2010
- B. Trottier, David. *The Screenwriter's Bible*, 6th ed. Silman-James Press, 2014
- C. Hoxter, J. *The Creative Screenwriter*, ed. Rockridge Press, 2020

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Curriculum Committee Approval Date: January 2022

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Course Originator: David Laderman