

North Hennepin Community College

TFT 1280: Introduction to Screenwriting

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

This course is an introduction to screenwriting, dealing with the basics of drama, story, character, structure, dialogue, and meaning. It explores these elements with writing exercises that develop skills in plotting, exposition, suspense, and action. It focuses on visual storytelling, helping students to discover observable actions and images that can convey ideas effectively, while constantly emphasizing how well-developed characters' needs and wants drive the structure and conflict of an engaging story. It is intended to acquaint students with the craft of screenwriting; to be a beginning course in the field that will help prepare students for further work.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/23/2009 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. This class usually will include the following topics, though not all will be covered in every section every year:

- Principles of Drama
- Keeping the Story Alive
- Generating Story Ideas
- Revelation, Climax and Resolution
- Character and Emotion
- Scene Construction Story
- Structure in Film
- Dialogue
- Plotting: Conflict and Action
- Subtext and Meaning
- Openings and Exposition
- Maintaining Story Focus

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate basic understanding of the process of screenwriting; the necessity of collaboration and extensive revision in response to feedback;
2. To understand the critical nature of structure and organization in storytelling;
3. To recognize the specialized audience for a screenplay and the importance of correct screenplay format in communicating competence to a professional audience;
4. To read, view, and respond to screenplays and the films made from them, accessing the relationship between the "blueprint" for a film and the film itself and articulating that response in writing and group discussion. (MnTC G 6, comp a, b, c, d, e; NHCC Core Abilities G 1: a, b, d, g; ELO 1, 4)
5. Have practice in using critical skills (interpretive, evaluative, and analytical) toward understanding a screenplay and the film produced from that work as well as judging its quality, not only articulating their reactions, but also indicating why they think they responded the way they did. (MnTC G 6, comp a, b, c, e; NHCC Core Abilities G 1: b, g; ELO 2, 4)
6. Write a screenplay for a short film, demonstrating knowledge of screenplay format and terminology as well as an understanding of the audience for a work in this form; gaining experience with knowing what works and what detracts from the work by group interaction, discussion, and revision. (MnTC G 6, comp b, c, d, e; NHCC Core Abilities G 1: a, b, d, g; ELO 2, 4)
7. Experience evaluating screenwriting's social context and cultural influence not only for its contribution to entertainment, but also a powerful tool for communication of a point of view that may be seen by large audiences. (MnTC G 6, comp a, b; NHCC Core Abilities G 1: d, g; ELO 3, 4)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
2. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted