



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	FILM
Course Number:	109
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Media Writing
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Film/Video
Course Disciplines:	Film/Video
Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to writing for film and electronic media. Emphasis will be 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 in film and electronic media.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2016
Transfer UC:	no
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	

Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Properly Format Scripts At the end of this course, students will be able to properly format scripts for a variety of electronic media including radio, television, film, music video, commercials, and documentaries. SLO #2 Principles of Basic Dramaturgy for Fiction Programs At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the principles of basic dramaturgy for fiction programs for voice, television, and film. SLO #3 Writing the Short Script At the end of this course, students will be able to research, develop and write a short script based on their original story premise.
Course Objectives:	1. Demonstrate competence in the mechanics of clear and concise writing. 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the technical and aesthetic issues related to writing for the film and electronic media. 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of narrative fiction screenwriting. 4. Demonstrate proficiency in writing in a variety of script formats, including the radio script, two-column video script, film script and sitcom script formats. 5. Demonstrate proficiency in creating a complete, short fictional narrative and writing it as a short film, TV, or transmedia script.
Major Topics:	I. Writing for various mediums (9 hours, lecture) A. Format and style B. Clarity, economy, grammar C. Basic narrative structure/conventions II. Medium specific issues (6 hours, lecture) A. Writing for radio (writing for the ear) B. Writing for film and television (writing for the eye) C. Writing for multimedia (writing for the ear, the eye, and interactivity) III. Script formats (3 hours, lecture) A. Radio B. Film/tv sitcom C. Two column/music video D. New media IV. Content for the various media (6 hours, lecture) A. Commercials and PSAs

	B. Corporate and documentaries C. Web sites and video games D. Fictional narratives: film/TV V. Fundamentals of dramatic storytelling (6 hours, lecture) A. 3-act structure B. Conflict and tension C. Resolutions D. Audience considerations VI. Fundamentals of character creation (6 hours, lecture) VII. Fundamentals of dialogue writing (6 hours, lecture) VIII. Process and methodology of script writing (12 hours, lecture) A. Pitches, loglines, story concepts B. Outlines C. Treatments D. Drafts and rewrites
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Develop and write a plot outline for an original story for the medium understudy.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Create a premise for a short narrative fiction screenplay then write 1) a pitch that can be presented orally in one minute or less, 2) a logline, 3) a story concept that includes the main story idea and clearly states the dramatic problem, and 4) an adage that articulates the main theme of the story (such as "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence").
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In proper format for a selected medium, write an 8-10 treatment for a fiction or nonfiction story based on your own original premise.

Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Objective Exam, Presentation, Term or Other Papers
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Robert Musburger, <u>An Introduction to Writing for Electronic Media</u> , 1st ed., Focal Press, 2007. Qualifier Text: Discipline standard and matches text suggested by C-ID.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A/C1000 or equivalent
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding	It is advised that students be able to read and effectively analyze college level texts, and be able to write a paper that persuasively proves an original thesis. Read, write, and comprehend English.

course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Recognize and revise sentence-level grammar and usage errors. Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques. Compose multi-paragraph, thesis-driven essays with logical and appropriate supporting ideas, and with unity and coherence.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Kevin O'Brien
Date:	03/05/2015
Original Board Approval Date:	10/19/2015
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Kevin O'Brien
Date:	03/17/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026