MCOM 231/ENGL 231
Screenwriting
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

MCOM 231/ENGL 231 – Screenwriting: is a course in which students analyze and create scripts for television and movies. Students explore the elements that go into writing successful scripts including screenwriting rules, narrative arc, and structure. NOTE: MCOM 231 is the same as ENGL 231. Earn credit for one only.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 101

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. differentiate the screenwriter's role in television and in film production;
2. describe the terminology and vocabulary used in the various formats associated with screenwriting for television and film;
3. distinguish the role of a screenwriter when adapting and/or creating an original work for television and film;
4. demonstrate improved skill level in the use of scripting techniques;
5. analyze the use of point of view, characterization, subtext, and plot synopsis in screenwriting;
6. critique commercial productions of television, film, and video releases with a discerning understanding of the screenwriter's contribution;
7. assess the different approaches used by production personnel (the storyboard, the shooting script, the short story synopsis, etc.) to present a script concept visually during the pre-production stage of development;
8. produce an original script project in industry standard format containing a proposal, character description, and plot synopsis; and
9. demonstrate an awareness of the importance of the script agent and the Screen Writers' Guild in successful contract negotiations for screenplay writers.

Major Topics

I. Basic Terminology and Vocabulary
II. Film and Television Screenwriting Formats
III. Character Analysis
IV. Plot Analysis
V. Thinking Visually
VI. Working with a Production
VII. Preparing for a Script Conference
VIII. Innovative Script Concepts

IX.   Selling a Television or Film Script
X.   Technology and the Script Writer

<u>Course Requirements</u>
Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- the creation and revision of an original short screenplay, properly formatted according to industry standards
- an analysis of an existing screenplay with emphasis on plot points, pacing, and proper formatting
- oral and written peer feedback to classmates' screenplays

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Date Revised: 12/6/2022