

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CMNS-140: Wordcraft for Visual Stories

CLASS SECTION: 001 & 001XL

TERM: 2023F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-face

CLASS ROOM: FISHER 216 Lansdowne Campus

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Aaron J Lefler

EMAIL: LeflerA@camosun.ca

OFFICE: 315B

HOURS: Thursday 4:30-5:30 (other times may be arranged by appointment)

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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Students will develop the ability to create original visual stories and to work from existing stories. Learners will focus on the creative and editorial skills at the interface of words and graphics required by visual storytellers to produce visual stories in their own stylistic and personal approach.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

### EXCLUSION(S):

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. Analyze the type of visual story to be created: plot-driven or character-driven.
2. Develop compelling characters as antagonist and protagonist who create dramatic tension when placed in situations where conflict will ensue.

3. Through a process of scripting, adapting and / or editing as necessary, create and properly format dramatic visual stories in multiple genres for their own comics and for other creators.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION**

A notebook, journal or sketchbook. Computer or tablet optional. Plastic folder or notebook with 3 prongs to store handouts. Writing and drawing utensils.

**COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION**

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p>1. Sept 5 Sept 7</p>	<p><b>Sept 5</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: INTRODUCTION</b> to writing and the work of the writer. An introduction to the medium of comics and sequential art. The purpose of the Journal and observation as the greatest tool for a writer.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> 75-200 words (a few sentences-half a page) Why do I write? What will I write? Who is my inspiration? What goals do I want from this course?</p> <p><b>Sept 7</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to “The Pitch” as a tool for brainstorming stories</b></p> <p><b>SHARE</b> the answers to the questions from Sept 5 with class for input and reactions</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> 1. Pick your favorite piece of well-known media and reduce the story down to 3 lines. This will be shared with the class Sept 12. 2. brainstorm for the 1st 6-8-page story</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook a place to record, experiences or sights - this goes towards participation marks</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
2. Sept 12 Sept 15	<p><b>Sept 12</b>  <b>LECTURE: STORY.</b> The universal appeal and meaning of story to readers. The job of telling stories. The writer’s goals. Types of stories. Aspects of stories. Tools of story writing. The story writing process.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> With all of this in mind brainstorm for the 1st 6–8-page comic assignment. Keep to the essentials of what happens. This begins the process towards completing the first assignment due Sept 29/23</p> <p><b>Sept 15</b>  <b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss the 6-8 page brainstorm.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK</b> – refine the story outline for discussion the following Thursday</p>	<p>“The Writer’s Room.” We will break into groups/or as a class and discuss each others’ work. This Workshop will be a regular feature of most of the Thursday sessions.</p>
3. Sept 19 Sept 21	<p><b>LECTURE: THE SCRIPT.</b> Plot driven and character driven stories. Description of the basic formats of scripts used in comics: “The Marvel Method” (Short Form) and the “Full Script”; with examples. Elements of a script.</p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #1 – Due Sep 29/23</b> for 25% (Marvel Method/Short form)</p> <p>Write a script in the Marvel Method for the 1st 6-8-page story.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Adapt your story outline into beats or events</p> <p><b>Sept 21</b></p> <p><b>BRING IN ROUGH DRAFT OF ASSIGNMENT 1</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Review the draft of your Marvel Method script.</p>	<p>“Marvel Method” sounds intimidating, I promise it isn’t. Thursday -Writers Room Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p>4. Sept 26 Sept 28</p>	<p><b>Sept 26</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: PLOT &amp; CATHARSIS.</b> Discuss Joseph Campbell</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Work on Marvel Method script Assignment. Look at a favorite comic or story, prepare to discuss in brief how it follows the hero's journey to be shared with class (if the story does)</p> <p><b>WORKSHOP Sept 28</b> Sharing hero's journey examples, finalizing Marvel Method assignment</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Brainstorm the story for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6–8-page comic. (Can continue with what you're working on or try something new- your choice) bring in favorite comic book for the following week.</p>	<p><b>SUBMISSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT #1 Marvel Method script Open- Due: Sept 29/23 (Friday)</b></p>
<p>5. Oct 3 Oct 5</p>	<p><b>Oct 3</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: STORY STRUCTURE</b> - the strategy of arranging a sequence of events to create an emotional reaction from the reader. Discuss class favorites and why.</p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #3 Due November 24/23 for 35% Write Full Script for your 2<sup>nd</sup> 6–8-page story</b></p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Write the plot outline of the 2<sup>ND</sup> 6-8-page story in bullet points</p> <p><b>Oct 5</b></p> <p><b>Class Discussion carries over from OCT 3</b></p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook Check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p>6. Oct 10 Oct 12</p>	<p><b>Oct 10</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: CHARACTER, Part 1.</b> The Protagonist and the Antagonist. How the Protagonist drives the story. How the Antagonist interacts in opposition to create dramatic tension and advance the story.</p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #2: Due Oct 27/23 for 10%.</b>  <b>Part 1.</b> Write detailed character profiles of the protagonist and antagonist <b>Part 2.</b> Short essay - Discuss how dramatic tension is created as the antagonist interacts with the protagonist</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Prepare notes for detailed character profiles</p> <p><b>Oct 12</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss your protagonist &amp; antagonist profiles. Identify contradictions. Query each other: What more do you want to know?</p>	<p>Will be provided with "Interview questions" that will be used in discussing characters</p>
<p>7. Oct 17 Oct 19</p>	<p><b>Oct 17</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: CHARACTER, Part 2.</b> Supporting and Reflective. Other characters support both the protagonist and the antagonist in their goals. Reflective characters show different sides of the protagonist and antagonist.</p> <p><b>Oct 19</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Create a character chart of how your characters support each other in the 1st 6-8-page story</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
8. Oct 24 & 26	<p><b>WORKSHOPS- Work Period/One on one Questions. Can work on other assignments for other classes if need be.</b></p> <p>Writers room for character profile/ working on the full script for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6–8-page comic. Problem solving in “The Writers’ Room” (<b>Assignment 3</b>)</p>	<p><b>SUBMISSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT #2 Character Profile Open Due Oct 27(Friday)</b></p>
9. Oct 31 Nov 2	<p><b>Oct 31</b></p> <p><b>ADAPTATION LECTURE</b></p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #4 - due Nov 17 /23 for 10%</b></p> <p>Adapt one page of a short story as a full script for a comic. Story provided.</p> <p><b>Nov 2</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss your adaptation.</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>
10. Nov 7 Nov 9	<p><b>Nov 7</b></p> <p><b>LECTURE: WORLD BUILDING</b></p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Write a description of the World of your comic</p> <p><b>Nov 9</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss the World of your story</p>	
11. Nov 14 Nov 16	<p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Work on the full script for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-8-page comic. Problem solving in “The Writers’ Room”</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
12. Nov 21 Nov 23	<p><b>LECTURE:</b> DIALOGUE. Uses. How people talk.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Write a one-page script with dialogue of two distinct voices</p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss draft of dialogue assignment</p>	<p><b>ASSIGNMENT #3 Due November 24/23 for 35% Write Full Script for your 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-8-page story</b></p>
13. Nov 28 Nov 30	<p><b>WORKSHOP/ WORK PERIOD+ SPECIAL LECTURE, WRITING FOR TV.</b></p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #5:</b> To be presented Dec 5th &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> for 10%</p> <p><b>Elevator Pitch</b> for your dream project</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Create “Elevator Pitch”</p> <p><b>WORKSHOP:</b> Discuss Elevator Pitch</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>
14. Dec 5 and 7	<p><b>PRESENTATIONS: Elevator Pitch</b></p>	<p><b>SUBMIT DEC 8</b></p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #5. Elevator Pitch for your dream project For 10%</b></p>

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
ASSIGNMENT #1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> 6-8-page comic script done in the “Marvel Method” format. Analysis of plot or character driven. <b>Due: September 29/23 (Friday)</b>	25%
ASSIGNMENT #2 - Character profiles of the protagonist & antagonist of your story. <b>DUE October 27/23</b>	10%
ASSIGNMENT #3 – 2 <sup>ND</sup> 6-8-page comic strip done in the Full Script format. <b>November 24/23</b>	35%
ASSIGNMENT #4 –Write a Full Script adaptation of one page of a short story. <b>DUE NOV 17</b>	10%
ASSIGNMENT 5 – Elevator Pitch for your dream project. Presented in class Dec. 5-7. DUE DEC 8	10%
CLASS PARTICIPATION / Journal and Sketchbook Checks	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Commitment to your learning is a collaboration between yourself, your instructor, and your peers. Your full participation is expected.

You can expect your instructor to:

- begin classes on time
- be prepared for class each day
- treat every member of the class with respect and dignity • return evaluated materials in a timely manner
- give assignments and engage in activities that will benefit students’ learning • foster an open and supportive environment in which to learn

Your instructor expects of the learner that you will:

- be on time for every class
- be prepared for class each day
- treat every member of the class with respect and dignity • submit assignments or other materials when they are due • take an active part in your own learning
- be supportive and accepting of the views of others

Assignments:

Unless otherwise specified, you are to submit your own work. Any work collaborated on (unless



permitted by the course) will be considered in violation of the college's Academic Integrity policy. See Camosun College (2021) Academic Integrity Policy

#### Deadlines:

The ability to meet deadlines is emphasized as an important outcome of this course and is essential in the communications industry. Assignment due dates are posted on assignment design briefs and close 11:59pm on the due date. Late assignments are subject to penalty.

### SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

### SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>

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Technology Support

<http://camosun.ca/its>

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Writing Centre

<http://camosun.ca/writing-centre>

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If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the

course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.