

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CMNS-140-Wordcraft for Visual Stories

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In person

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Aaron J Lefler

EMAIL: leflera@camosun.ca or aaronleflercomix@gmail.com

OFFICE: 315B

HOURS: Tuesday or Thursday 4:30-5:30 (other times may be arranged by appointment, also email me before coming in)

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

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):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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. 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>Week 1</p> <p>Tuesday, September 3 Thursday, September 5</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 3</p> <p>LECTURE: INTRODUCTION 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>HOMEWORK: 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>Thursday, September 5</p> <p>Introduction to "The Pitch" as a tool for brainstorming stories</p> <p>SHARE the answers to the questions from Sept 5 with class for input and reactions</p> <p>HOMEWORK:</p> <p>1. Pick your favourite piece of well-</p>	<p>Bring in a Journal/Sketchbook a place to record experiences or sights - this goes towards participation marks</p> <p>Pass around sign up sheet for Show and Tell (Every week a student will bring in their favorite piece of media and dicusses it.</p> <p>This goes towards particaption marks)</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<p>known media and reduce the story down to 3 lines. This will be shared with the class Sept 12.</p> <p>2. brainstorm for the 1st 6-8-page story</p>	
<p>Week 2</p> <p>Tuesday, September 10 Thursday, September 12</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 10</p> <p>LECTURE: STORY. 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>HOMEWORK: 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: Friday October 4, 2024</p> <p>Thursday, September 12</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Discuss the 6–8-page brainstorm. HOMEWORK – 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.</p> <p>This Workshop will be a regular feature of most of the Thursday sessions.</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p>Tuesday, September 17 Thursday, September 19</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 17</p> <p>LECTURE: THE SCRIPT. 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>Introduction to ASSIGNMENT #1 – Due: October 4 for 25% (Marvel Method/Short form)</p> <p>Write a script in the Marvel Method for the 1st 6- 8-page story.</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Adapt your story outline into beats or events</p> <p>Thursday, September 19</p> <p>BRING IN ROUGH DRAFT OF ASSIGNMENT 1</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Review the draft of your Marvel Method script.</p>	<p>“Marvel Method” sounds intimidating, I promise it isn’t.</p> <p>Thursday -Writers Room</p> <p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<p>Part 2: Short essay - Discuss how dramatic tension is created as the antagonist interacts with the protagonist</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Prepare notes for detailed character profiles</p> <p><i>Thursday, October 10</i></p> <p>WORKSHOP: Discuss your protagonist & antagonist profiles. Identify contradictions. Query each other: What more do you want to know?</p>	
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Tuesday, October 15</p> <p>Thursday October 17</p>	<p><i>Tuesday, October 15</i></p> <p>LECTURE: CHARACTER Part 2. 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><i>Thursday, October 17</i></p> <p>WORKSHOP: In Class Assignment: Create a character chart of how your characters support each other in the 1st 6-8- page story. This will be worth 2.5% (will be due end of class or by Friday the 18th)</p>	<p>Journal/Sketchbook Check in</p> <p>IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT CHARACTER CHART</p> <p>Bring in drawing supplies.</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p>Tuesday, October 22</p> <p>Thursday, October 24</p>	<p>WORKSHOPS- Work Period/One on one Questions. Can work on other assignments for other classes if need be.</p> <p>Introduction to ASSIGNMENT #3 Due DEC 2nd for 25% You will write Full Script for your 2nd 6–8-page story</p> <p>Writers room for character profile/ working on the full script for the 2nd 6–8-page comic.</p> <p>Problem solving in “The Writers’ Room”</p>	<p>SUBMISSIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT #2 Character Profiles Open</p> <p>Due: November 1</p>
<p>Week 9</p> <p>Tuesday, October 29</p> <p>Thursday, October 31</p>	<p><i>Tuesday, October 29th</i></p> <p>ADAPTATION LECTURE + in Class Assignment</p> <p>Adapt a one page of a short story as a full script or Marvel Method Story provided – will be working on this in class.</p>	<p>IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT ADAPTATION</p> <p>Journal/Sketchbook check in</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<p>Thursday, October 31</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Discuss your adaptation, and submit that evening or Friday- Worth 2.5%</p>	
<p>Week 10</p> <p>Tuesday November 5</p> <p>WEEK 10</p> <p>Thursday November 7</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 5</p> <p>LECTURE: WORLD BUILDING HOMEWORK: Write a description of the World of your comic.</p> <p>Thursday, November 7</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Discuss the World of your story</p>	
<p>Week 11</p> <p>Tuesday, November 12</p> <p>Thursday, November 14</p>	<p>WORKSHOP: ASSIGNMENT 3 Work on the full script for the 2nd 6-8-page comic. Problem solving in “The Writers’ Room” DUE DEC 2ND</p>	journal/Sketchbook check in
<p>Week 12</p> <p>Tuesday, November 19</p> <p>Thursday, November 21</p>	<p>LECTURE: DIALOGUE. Uses. How people talk.</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Write a one-page script with dialogue of two distinct voices</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Discuss draft of dialogue assignment</p>	<p>ASSIGNMENT #3 DEC 2nd for 25% Write Full Script for your 2nd 6–8- page story</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>Tuesday, November 26</p> <p>Thursday, November 28</p>	<p>WORKSHOP/ WORK PERIOD+ SPECIAL LECTURE, WRITING FOR TV.</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT #4: To be presented Dec 3rd & 5th for 20% Pitch for your dream project</p> <p>HOMEWORK: Create Pitch document</p> <p>WORKSHOP: Pitch practice and keep working</p>	<p>ASSIGNMENT #3 DEC 2nd for 25% Write Full Script for your 2nd 6–8- page story</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>Tuesday, December 3</p> <p>Thursday, December 5</p>	<p>PRESENTATIONS: Pitch</p>	<p>SUBMIT DEC 6</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT #4. Pitch for your dream project For 20%</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 notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](#).

<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
ASSIGNMENT #1 - script done in the "Marvel Method" format. Analysis of plot or character driven. DUE: Friday October 4th	25%
ASSIGNMENT #2 - Character profiles of the protagonist & antagonist of your story. DUE: Friday November 1st	20%
ASSIGNMENT #3 – 2ND 6-8-page comic strip done in the Full Script format. DUE: Monday December 2nd	25%
ASSIGNMENT # 4 Pitch for dream project + presentation DUE Friday December 6th	20%
IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS + PARTICIPATION	10%
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 policy for more information. https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf	TOTAL 100%

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

[INSERT TEXT HERE]

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning

Support Service	Website
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

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 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 Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.