

# COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE:** CRWR-158: Introduction to Scriptwriting

**CLASS SECTION:** 001

**TERM:** Fall 2023

**COURSE CREDITS:** 3

**DELIVERY METHOD(S):** in person (Fisher 266)

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](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

**NAME:** Jeanne Iribarne (call me "J.")

**EMAIL:** Iribarne@camosun.ca

**OFFICE:** Paul 335 (office telephone: 250-370-3359)

**HOURS:** Tuesday 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Paul 335 or 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.*

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## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will develop skills in writing scripts for various media (e.g., dramatic production, comics, and film). Students will examine elements such as effective dialogue, characterization, sub-text, plot structure, and staging.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

### EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

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## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify the role and responsibilities of the scriptwriter.
2. Read, analyze, and discuss various script-based media.
3. Practice scriptwriting and create a variety of short scripts.
4. Write, edit, and evaluate the components (conflict, plot, setting, characters, dialogue) of an effective script.
5. Conduct research to give scripts credibility.
6. Identify the various resources for scriptwriters.
7. Prepare a script according to industry standards for submission for production.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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- Use of a laptop or tablet for workshop classes (required).
- Some cash for occasional printing (required).

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

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

SEE NEXT PAGE

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
1: <b>Sept 5 to 8</b>	<u>What is a script?</u> Course introductions	beginning five finger exercises
2: <b>Sept 11 to 15</b>	<u>What happens next?</u> The 10-minute form + plot	<b>listen:</b> short plays (a selection)  <b>workshop class:</b> ex. 1 and 2
3: <b>Sept 18 to 22</b>	<u>How does dialogue work?</u> The delicate balance of realism	<b>read/watch:</b> <i>Play</i> (by Samuel Beckett)
4: <b>Sept 25 to 29</b>	<u>How do we create “theatre of the mind?”</u> Coordinating speaking and action	<b>workshop class:</b> ex. 3 and 4
5: <b>Oct 2 to 6</b>	<u>How are scripts for visual media developed?</u>	<b>watch: selected short films</b>  <b>workshop class:</b> first draft, 10-minute script due
6: <b>Oct 9 to 13</b>	<u>How does a screenplay work?</u> Writing focus: screenplay style and format	<b>watch/read:</b> <i>Grand Budapest Hotel</i> (2013)  final draft, 10-minute script due (20%)—Oct 13 by midnight
7: <b>Oct 16 to 20</b>	<u>How do we create subtext?</u>	<b>workshop class:</b> exercises in subtext
8: <b>Oct 23 to 27</b>	<u>How can we incorporate structural innovation?</u>  <u>How do we write with time?</u>	<b>watch/read:</b> <i>Inception</i> (2010)  <b>workshop class:</b> mise-en-scène exercise (ex. 5)
9: <b>Oct 30 to Nov 3</b>	<u>How do we adapt other works?</u>	** scene analyses begin** (see sign up schedule)  <b>workshop class:</b> adaptations, part I
10: <b>Nov 6 to 10</b>	<u>How do we work with ideas?</u>	<b>watch/read:</b> <i>Moonlight</i> (2016)  <b>workshop class:</b> adaptations, part II
11: <b>Nov 13 to 17</b>	<u>How do other types of scripts work?</u>	<b>read/watch:</b> <i>Giri/Haji</i> , Episode 1 (2019)

12: <b>Nov 20 to 24</b>	<u>What is a good monologue?</u>	<b>read/watch:</b> <i>The Derry Girls</i> , Season 1, Episode 1 (2018)  <b>workshop class:</b> first draft, 15-minute screenplay due
13: <b>Nov 27 to Dec 1</b>	<u>How can I revise my own work?</u>  <u>What do I do with my completed script(s)?</u>	<b>workshop class:</b> individual scenes, 15-minute screenplay
14: <b>Dec 4 to 8</b>	Reading and party.	Individual appointments this week
Finished! No exam.		Final draft, 15-minute screenplays due by midnight on Monday, December 11

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](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
10-minute dramatic script	15
15-minute screenplay	25
Exercises (5)	25
Scene analysis (live or video presentation)	5
In-class writing on films (5)	10
Participation (including workshops, feedback to peers, scintillating and intelligent discussion, etc.)	20
<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

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1. Your happiness and well-being as a student are important to me and are important factors in your success. Please contact me if I can help you navigate through the college system in any way (even if the issue relates to another course).
2. Participation in this course requires a climate of respect and collaboration. This means offering peers constructive feedback, and it means commitment throughout the semester. Naturally, it is much easier to participate if you attend class.
3. Assignments are due on the due date. I will be asking you to submit your assignments electronically to the correct dropbox. It's your responsibility to make certain you have uploaded your file on time, and that it is the correct version in a readable format. If I can't open it or read it, it does not count as having been submitted.

**Unless we negotiate otherwise (under exceptional circumstances),** late assignments will be accepted for one full week after the initial due date with a penalty of 5% per day, but these assignments will receive no written comments (only a grade).

NOTE: If you have COVID or any other communicable illness, we would all prefer if you did not come in to class, true. And yes, this is a legitimate reason to be late with assignments. However, I expect to hear from you on or before the due date, if this is the case. Please keep track of deadlines, and please keep me in the loop. You are welcome to discuss your work with me in detail at any time (before or after the due date).

4. Please be careful when using other people's words or ideas. Using them without identifying the author constitutes fraud (plagiarism) and can have a lasting impact on this course and your future studies, even if that "author" is not a human being but a machine. See me if you are in any doubt about where to draw the line between your work and someone else's.

While plagiarism in this course may have different boundaries than in an academic course, the onus is still on you to create original work. This also means that you must hand in work created specifically for this class (i.e. not for previous courses or in your previous career as a scriptwriter for Universal Studios). We will talk about the use of AI in scriptwriting as well.

## 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>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

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](http://camosun.ca/services/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.