

School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CRWR 158

Introduction to Scriptwriting

Fall 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records. You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Jeanne Iribarne		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tues and Thurs	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; Wed and Fri 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	
(c)	Location:	Paul 328		
(d)	Phone:	370-3349	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	Iribarne@camos	un.bc.ca	
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 1. Identify at a beginner's level, the process of scriptwriting.
- 2. Analyse some sense of how the various media work, and what the screenwriter's role is in the production of a new script.
- 3. Evaluate the importance of conflict for an effective script.
- 4. Practise dialogue with a fair degree of facility, and with due attention to sub-text.
- 5. Practise and hone skills for scriptwriting through a comprehensive set of exercises, such as monologues, various short statements about what is happening with the characters.
- 6. Evaluate and produce plots, settings, characters and appropriately nuanced language with effective use of figures of speech.
- 7. Practise effective journal keeping, to understand its importance for the screenwriter.
- 8. Carry out appropriate research to give scripts credibility.
- 9. Identify the various resources available for scriptwriters.
- 10. Prepare a script for submission for publication following the guidelines of The Playwrights' Union of Canada (PUC) and/or Canadian Film and Television Producers (CFTPA).

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts
 - Course package for English 158
 - Please set aside some funds (about \$15) and time for **one** performance outside of class (see syllabus).

4. Course Content and Schedule

(This section can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

<u>Date</u>	What We Will Cover	Major Assignments
		And Readings

Week 1	Course introductions.	Email bio
(Sep 4-7)		
	What makes a script?	
		"Guppies"
	What happens next?	"Time Flies"
Week 2	The 10-minute play	"A Bowl of Soup"
(Sep 10-14)		"Hold for Three"
	Writing focus: beginning character and plot	Workshop class:
		what is the writer's job?
	How does dialogue work?	
		The Good Person of Setzuan *
Week 3	Writing focus: dialogue (the delicate balance of realism)	
(Sep 17-21)	Writing Focus: developing character	
	Theatre of the Mind	Play (by Samuel Beckett)*
	Formal Innovation	W. 1.1 1 5 1 5 10 1
Week 4		Workshop class: first draft, 10-minute
(Sep 24-28)	Writing focus: dialogue (coordinating speaking and action)	play
		short films (viewing in class)
	How are screenplays different from stage plays?	
Week 5	How are scripts for visual media developed?	three interviews (Warren Ellis, Neil
(Oct 1-5)		Gaiman, and Frank Miller)*
	Writing focus: reading screenplays	
		10-minute play due
	How does a screenplay work?	
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Week 6		
(Oct 8-12)	Writing focus: adaptations	Workshop class: adaptations, part I
	October 8 – Thanksgiving (no classes)	
	What are good beginning points for films?	Speaking Parts
Week 7	Writing focus: screenplay format	Workshop class: adaptations, part II
(Oct 15-19)	Writing focus: subtext	1
	How can we deal with structural innovation?	Memento *
Week 8		
(Oct 22-26)		
	What are some good strategies for revision?	
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Week 9	Writing focus: revision goals	Workshop class: first draft, 10-minute
(Oct 29-Nov 2)		screenplay (or script for visual medium)
	How do we plan a longer work?	
Week 10		
(Nov 5-9)	Writing focus: scenarios	10-minute screenplay due
	Nov 9 – last day to withdraw without academic penalty	
	November 8 – 24: The Good Person of Setzuan at The	
	Phoenix	
	How do we work with ideas?	Fargo*
Week 11		The Reader*
(Nov 12-16)	Writing focus: theme	
Week 12	Are there possibilities for genre crossover?	
(Nov 19-23)		Away We Go
	Writing focus: planning	Workshop class – scenarios
	What do I do with my completed script?	Workshop class: first draft, scenes from
Week 13	How do we evaluate a script separately from a	the longer work
(Nov 26-30)	production?	The Good Person of Setzuan *
		(discussion of production)
Week 14		
(Dec 3-7)	Reading and party.	Scenes and Scenario due (December 3)
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5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting) (This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

Evaluation

10-minute stage script	20%
10-minute screenplay (or script for visual medium)	20%
15-minute stage OR screenplay (scenes +scenario)	20%
In-class writing (on each major reading)	20%
Participation	20%
(including workshops, feedback to peers, self-evaluation, exercises, a brief present	tation,
scintillating and intelligent discussion, etc.)	

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9

85-89	Α		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	В		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	С		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at **camosun.ca** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
1	Incomplete: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
cw	Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED