

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

 x Transfer Course x A.A. Degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: RTV 115/CINE 115 Creative Writing for Television and Cinema

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE: Instruction and practice in the art of dramatic script writing. Emphasis is placed on the development of the initial story idea into a viable, professional shooting script for TV or film.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will

1. Identify the basic elements of screenplay structure and script format.
2. Apply Structuralist story principles and professional format in the completion of a screenplay or teleplay assignment.
3. Solve novel story problems in rewriting scenes.
4. Analyze the basic structure, character development, conflict, crisis, and theme in professional films and scripts.
5. Identify methods of protecting and marketing their writing.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. Writing Essentials for Film and Television
 - A. The writer's need for solid work habits
 - B. Sources for story ideas
 - C. Film and television as visual arts
- II. Screenplay Structure
 - A. The three-act structure
 - B. The shot, scene, and sequence as structural units
 - C. Structure within the scene
 - D. The card system
- III. Script Formats
 - A. Screenplay Format
 - B. Teleplay Format

- C. Live-Tape and Split-Page Format
- IV. Story Development
 - A. Establishing characters' motivations
 - B. Discovering the conflict
 - C. Developing the conflict to crisis
 - D. Theme and resolution
- V. Dialogue
 - A. Providing unique character voices
 - B. Writing for the ear
- VI. Protecting Ideas
 - A. Copyrighting scripts
 - B. The Writers Guild of America Registration Service
 - C. Using the United States Postal Service
- VII. Marketing and the Industry
 - A. How to sell a script
 - B. The role of the agent
 - C. Writers Guild membership and services

REQUIRED READING:

Texts appropriate for the course, such as the following:

Brady, Ben, and Lance Lee. The Understructure of Writing for Film and Television. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1988.

Seger, Linda. Making a Good Script Great. New York: Samuel French, 1994.

Trottier, David. The Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script. Los Angeles: Silman-James Press, 1998.

Johnson, Claudia H. Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect. Burlington, MA, 2000.

SUGGESTED READING: None

REQUIRED WRITING: Five scenes, 2-5 pages in length.
A teleplay or ½ screenplay, 60 pages in length.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, including reading the text, studying lecture notes, and writing papers.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes ___ No x

If yes, check all that apply:

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Final Script | 60% |
| Scenes | 20% |
| Exam | <u>20%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes ___ No x Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Robert Sheppard, ext. 2444

SIGNATURES ON FILE