
Course information

- Intro to Screenwriting
- Cinema 005
- Section 0586
- Spring 2015
- Mon & Weds, 9:35am-11:40am
- ATA128

Instructor / Contact Information

- Paul Calderon
- Office hours upon request – after class
- 323-359-4252
- calderon.paul@ymail.com

Online Resources:

<http://www.schoolology.com/home>

access code: Q5WRC-5K8SS

Course Description – This creative writing course will introduce the student to the art of writing for film. The student will learn the basic elements of the screenplay such as structure, plot, character development and dialogue. Students will write a script based on a treatment of their own idea for a film.

Course Pre-requisites and Advisories: None

Required Textbooks and Materials: Story by Robert McKee

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

DEFINE & DISCUSS key screenwriting concepts.

ANALYZE scenes and scripts according to their dramatic and cinematic potential.

CREATE & REVISE short scenes and scripts that demonstrate an understanding of key storytelling principals as they relates to film and television.

Course Objectives

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

Analysis of Screenplay Structure, Script Treatment, Character Biographies, Scenes,

Sequences, Acts, Screenplay.

- define cinematic terms
 - format a screenplay
 - dramatize a concept
 - analyze source material and story
 - critique plot development
 - create characters
 - revise material
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- write, judge and evaluate the premise and execution of dramatic films and screenplays.

Instructional Methods – This course is taught using a variety of instructional methods include lecture, class discussion, small group work, project creation, electronic discussion.

Student Responsibilities

- Participation
- Homework
- Online discussions
- Projects
- Group work – include information on productive group processes

Course Content and Outline

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered, to be prompt and to remain in class/lab for the entire time. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from the class. Instructors may drop a student from a class whenever a student is absent more hours than the number of hours the class meets per week. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

- Policy for late work. Your overall grade on an assignment will drop one full letter grade for each day late.

Grade Tracker (example)

TRACK YOUR GRADES		
Assignment:	Due Date:	Percentage of Final Grade
Composition 1		5%
In-Class Composition 1		5%
Composition 2		10%
In-Class Composition 2		10%

Final Essay		40%
Sentence Skills		10%
Sentence Skill Homework		10%
Portfolio		5%
Writing Improvement Journal		5%
Total		100%

Final grade score: 90100%=A, 8089%=B, 7079%=C, 6069%=D, Less than 60%=F

Syllabus Change Policy – This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for modification of the syllabus during the semester.

Grading Methods and Scale – Provide a clear explanation of evaluation, including a clear statement on the assessment process and measurements. Be explicit! You may include format, number, weight for quizzes and exam, description of papers and projects as well as how they will be assessed and the overall grading scale and standards. You can also provide descriptions for papers, projects, and assignment in their respective sections of the syllabus. Include your grading rubric for assignments and the class.

- **Sample grading standard:** There will be 4 critical script points throughout the course. Your story pitch. Story outline. First draft of script. Final Draft.

Course Schedule

- Provide a detailed list of meeting dates, major topics and themes, reading assignments, and due dates for all exams, scheduled quizzes, papers, projects, assignments, labs and readings. Use a grid format to help students easily read and understand the information.
- **Sample course schedule grid:**

Week	Date	Chapter to be discussed	Discussion assignments
1	Feb. 9,11	Course Introduction Review Syllabus Self Assessment	Begin reading: Introduction – 3 The Story Problem - 11 The Structure Spectrum – 31 Structure and Setting - 67 Structure and Genre – 79
2	02/16/18		Structure and Character – 100 Structure and Meaning – 110 The substance of Story - 135

3	02/23/25		The Inciting Incident – 181 Act Design – 208 Scene Design – 233
4	March 2&4	Story Pitch & Outline	Scene Analysis 252 Composition – 288 Crisis, Climax, Resolution – 303
5	March 9 & 10	Story Pitch & Outline	The Principle of Antagonism – 317 Exposition – 334 Problems and Solutions – 346
6	March 16&18	Story Pitch & Outline	Character – 374 The Text – 388
7	Mar 23 & 25	Guest - Workshop	A Writer's Method 410 Fade Out - 418
8	Mar 30 Apr 1	First Ten Pages of Script	Script
9	Apr 6 & 8	Spring Break	
10	Apr 13 & 15		
11	Apr 20 & 22	Guest - Workshop	Script
12	Apr 27 & 28	Guest - Workshop	Script
13	May 4 & 6	Guest - Workshop	Script
14	May 11 & 13	Writing Analysis & Check-in	Script
15	May 18 & 20	Writing Analysis & Check-in	
16	June 3rd	Final Scripts	

Cell Phones and Lap Tops

Cell phones must be on vibrate, as a courtesy to your classmates and your professor. It is not acceptable to take phone calls or text in class. . If you have to answer an emergency phone call, please step out of the classroom. You may take notes in class on your laptop, but do not let that be a distraction to participating in class.

Electronic Mail

E-mail is the official method of communicating with you. Every WLAC student has an e-

mail address. Check your Student.LACCD@Edu account daily/weekly. To access your account visit www.wlac.edu, and click on the Student Email button. To log in use your student ID # and your birthday and month. Your Student.LACCD@Edu email can be forwarded to any other personal email account.

Disabled Student Services

If you know or think that you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact Dr. Duke in the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Office in HLRC 121 at (310) 287-4450. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations, such as additional testing time, or a note taker. If you require an accommodation for this class, please speak with me. Tape recording of lectures and discussions will not be permitted without my consent.

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor may assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. Before a substandard grade is issued the instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity

- **Cheating.** Using any materials or devices or strategies which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student's exam, using phones or other communication systems to text message during exams, taking pictures or images of exams, talking with others during exams, using Internet to find information, or any other system of inappropriate "help." Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.
- **Collaboration.** Working together on projects, papers, exams or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.
- **Plagiarism.** Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

For assistance with classroom projects, papers and assignments, please visit the Learning Skills Center, HLRC.

Standards of Student Conduct

The West LA College faculty, staff and administrators are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and will not tolerate any disruptive behavior in or outside of the classroom or any academic dishonesty. These standards apply to all students.

Disruptive, disrespectful, or obstructive behavior will be dealt with in accordance with the LACCD Standard of Student conduct. Disciplinary action can be taken if student behavior interferes with instruction. (Please refer to the Spring 2012 Schedule of Classes pages

117-118.)

- Warning—A verbal or written notice, given to the student by the instructor.
- Removal by the Instructor—An instructor may remove a student from class for the day of the incident and the next class meeting. During the period of removal, the student shall not return to the class from which he or she was removed without the permission of the Vice President of Student Services.

Classroom and Campus Cleanliness

Please help us keep the classroom and campus grounds clean. No food or beverages, except for water, is permitted inside instructional classrooms /labs. Please use the receptacles to dispose of trash.

Electronic Mail

Electronic mail is the official method of communication for delivery of college information. Please check your Student.LACCD@Edu account daily/weekly. To access your account visit www.wlac.edu, click on the Student Email button. To log in use your student ID# and your birthday and month. Your Student.LACCD@EDU email can be forwarded to any other personal email account.

Instructional Support and Monitoring

- Monitor your academic progress online at www.wlac.edu click “Counseling, Assessment and Orientation,” then on the DegreeWorks icon, or visit the Counseling Office.
- For instructional support and assistance with research projects, visit the Learning Skills Center and Library in HLRC.

Student Acknowledgment
(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

"I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements."

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, and observance of religious holidays.

Special needs or circumstances:
