Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: November 9, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: COM 215

Course Name: Script Writing

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours, 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: supporting data required for grade prerequisite of ‘C’ or higher. This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of developing and writing original scripts for film, television and multimedia. The course emphasizes proper script formats, theme, story, plot, dialogue, character arc, and the process of developing and writing a script. Prerequisite: ENG 102

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable: The course fulfills a requirement for the AAS Game Design program, can be taken to fulfill part of the AS in Communications program, and as an elective course.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes: State the student learning outcome(s) for the course (e.g. Student will be able to identify…)

Students will be able to:
1. Write basic scripts in a variety of formats for electronic media.
2. Demonstrate the basic concepts and techniques of modern script writing.
3. Comprehend, analyze and produce original creative writing.
4. Demonstrate a sense of storytelling, particularly through cinematic techniques.
5. Express an appreciation of the goals and practices of writing for American television and film.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

- [x] writing
- [x] computer literacy
- [x] oral communications
- [x] ethics/values
- [x] reading
- [x] citizenship
- [ ] mathematics
- [ ] global concerns
- [ ] critical thinking
- [ ] information resources
III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>eg: writing</td>
<td>eg: student will complete a research paper</td>
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| Writing                                     | 1. Students will complete weekly writing assignments designed to demonstrate comprehension of and proficiency with course concepts.  
2. Students will complete a final project (an original sit-com script or short film) working through a process of workshops and revisions to demonstrate comprehension of and proficiency with course concepts and storytelling, particularly through cinematic techniques. |
| Oral Communication                          | 1. Students will develop and deliver a pitch of their final projects before an audience in a style and manner consistent with current practices.  
2. Students will provide oral feedback through periodic in-class readings of student final projects to demonstrate comprehension and analysis of original creative writing.  
3. Students will analyze the dramatic components in assigned films or TV shows as part of a weekly discussion. |
| Computer Literacy                           | Students will use Final Draft or other word processing software to complete all written assignments to demonstrate comprehension of the basic concepts and techniques of modern script writing. |
| Ethics and Values                           | Students will produce original creative writing applying academic and professional ethics and values consistent with the goals and practices of writing for American television and film. |

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Textbook(s)

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

While literature, lecture, readings, and videotapes are used to introduce the student to theory and principles of script writing, the course, on the whole, is conducted as a writing workshop.
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:
   A. Terminology, Concepts, Themes & Loglines
   B. Dramatic structure (3 acts / 4 acts)
   C. Beat Sheets, Treatments & Outlines
   D. Approaches to Developing Character and Dialogue
   E. Screenplay Format and Conflict
   F. Writing Scenes and Exposition
   G. Teleplay Structure - Sitcoms & Hour Dramas
   H. Rewriting
   I. Documentaries, Docu-dramas and Multi-media
   J. Subplots, Pitches, Troubleshooting, and Marketing