# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 212**

**Advanced Screenwriting**

1. **Catalog Statement**

English 212 is a continuation of English 112. Students will learn to think critically and develop their screenwriting skills through reading selected screenplays and viewing dramatic scenes portrayed on film. Students will analyze films to learn the fundamentals or character development, three acts structure, and cinematic sequences. Students will develop a variety of feature length scenarios, choosing one to outline as a feature length film.

#### Units - 3.0

Lecture Hours - 3.0

Prerequisite: English 112 or equivalent

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

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Skills Level Ranges: Reading 7; Writing 7; Listening/Speaking 7; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. assimilate and analyze the basic elements of screenplay form;
2. combine these elements in an original composition;
3. analyze, synthesize, and evaluate screenplays, scenes, and sequences.
4. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. assimilate, organize, and demonstrate the basic elements of screenplay form;
2. analyze, synthesize, and evaluate written screenplays in three act structure;
3. create and write complex character biographies;
4. develop story outlines through applying specific film scenarios;
5. complete a plot outline for an original feature length screenplay in three act, eight sequence form;
6. write act one of the outlined feature in screenplay form.
7. **Course Content**

A. Screenplay Form 2 hours

1. format and structure
2. technical details and measurements
3. script and film terms

B. Character and Characterization 6 hours

1. Types of characters
2. Creating a character

C. Screenplay Essentials 2 hours

1. Using visual and audio elements
2. Involving dialogue
3. Creating conflict and obstacles
4. Using transitions
5. Developing beginnings and endings

D. Developing Scenarios 8 hours

E. Viewing and Analysis of Film Scenes and Features 12 hours

1. Identifying and summarizing scene types

1. Exploration of how character is revealed

3. Visual clues

F. Workshop 14 hours

G. Understanding Three Act Structure 2 hours

H. Identifying Sequences 2 hours

1. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and discussion;
2. collaborative learning;
3. evaluation and analysis of scenes, sequences and three act structure;
4. demonstration of specific dramatic scenarios;
5. analysis of feature length films;
6. guest speakers;
7. Q & A industry questions forum.
8. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
9. writing assignments
10. group workshops
11. quizzes or tests
12. **Textbooks**

Field, S. Screenplay, The Foundations of Screenwriting. 4th edition, 0385339046,

Delta, 2006

Howard, D. & Mabley, E. The Tools of Screenwriting, 0312119089, St. Martin’s, 1993

Seger, L. Creating Unforgettable Characters, 0805011714, Owl Books, 1990

Schilf, M., Screenwriting 212 Instructional Packet – duplicated

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. critically read screenplays and texts in order to identify and apply screenplay fundamentals and Three Act Structure
2. analyze and critique feature films, sequences, and dramatic scenes to study structure essentials
3. write critical essay and/or answer test questions based on reading and viewing of a particular feature film(s) and/or film clip(s) to analyze elements of Three Act Structure and specific plot points of the screenplay
4. develop and write feature length scenario outlines
5. write the First Act of the feature in screenplay format