

Screenwriting

FLM - 1075 001

Course Description

Introduces professional screenwriting techniques, with focus on properly formatting screenplays for film, including narrative style projects. The student will be required to develop a script using professional screenplay software.

Semester: All

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate competency in properly formatting a screenplay for film or broadcast, using the basic creation of scene headings, character, dialogue and action.
- Demonstrate competency in using story-telling techniques used in the professional film industry, such as the 3-act, 7-sequence story structure and the aristocratic storytelling method.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the many terms in the screenplay formatting language.
- Demonstrate professional screenplay formatting and storytelling skills by participating in roundtable discussions with fellow students, by reading each other's screenplays and critiquing one another's work.

Course Prerequisites

None

Engagement Plan

Example language:

- I will respond to email within [insert your timeline]. I will offer feedback on major assignments within [insert your timeline]. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this email over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.
- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.
- Lastly, we'll be holding small group Q & A sessions, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course.

Course Content Advisory

We will watch 2 feature films over the semester. They are both rated R.

The Man Who Wasn't There is rated R for "A scene of violence".

Win Win is rated R for "language".

There are many clips from films that will be shown throughout the semester. Some contain language and/or action violence with some gore.

If you wish to choose another feature film that may follow these types of story structure, please clear it through the instructor.

Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

Course Materials

Although there is no required textbook, the materials found in this course will be necessary for you to be successful in the course.

- All reading and video materials are provided in this Canvas course
- Computer (PC or Mac) with internet access - campus computers may be used

- If you need assistance in securing a computer, please see the page "Technology Requirements, Skills, and Support" in the Orientation Module.
- Screenwriting software such as Celtx, Final Draft, Writer Duet
 - Celtx.com has a free basic plan, but you will need to sign up for a 7-day free trial first. After the trial period, you can choose to pay for an upgrade or continue with a free basic account. The free version gives you up to 3 free screenplays.
 - Final Draft can be purchased via a software download with an Educational price. This version requires academic status verification. Final Draft also offers a 30-day free trial period.
 - WriterDuet.com has a simple free account you can use if you would like to try it out (does not require a trial period). The free version gives you up to 3 free screenplays. You can also pay for different upgraded versions of the software with a 14-day free trial offer.
- Click the buttons below to visit the screenplay software websites.
Celtx.com [Final Draft](http://FinalDraft.com) WriterDuet.com

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
8/28/25	Enroll in the Film Department Resources Canvas Course	Assignment	5
8/31/25	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	5
8/31/25	Orientation Quiz	Quiz	5
8/31/25	Practice Submitting Assignments	Assignment	5
9/7/25	3 Concept Proposal	Assignment	60

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/7/25	Loglines	Discussion	10
9/11/25	Beginning Course Survey	Quiz	7
9/14/25	1-Page Treatment	Assignment	100
9/18/25	Action Page Assignment	Assignment	100
9/21/25	Character Types (Static v Dynamic)	Discussion	10
9/28/25	Dialogue Page Assignment	Assignment	100
10/2/25	Script Interpretation Exercise	Assignment	100
10/5/25	Movie Analysis #1: Win Win	Assignment	150
10/9/25	Paradigm Worksheet	Assignment	50
10/12/25	1st Act Draft Assignment	Assignment	200
10/19/25	Backstory Elements Exercise	Assignment	100
10/23/25	Group Critique Assignment: 1st Act Draft	Assignment	100
11/2/25	2nd Act Draft Assignment	Assignment	200
11/9/25	Short Film Techniques	Discussion	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/13/25	Group Critique Assignment: 2nd Act Draft	Assignment	100
11/13/25	What's Your Style?	Discussion	10
11/16/25	Movie Analysis #2 - The Man Who Wasn't There	Assignment	150
11/23/25	3rd Act Draft Assignment	Assignment	200
12/11/25	Group Critique Assignment: 3rd Act Draft	Assignment	100
12/15/25	End of Course Survey	Quiz	15
12/15/25	Feature-Length Screenplay Analysis	Assignment	150
12/15/25	Final Assignment: Revised Full Script	Assignment	200

Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

There are several short essay assignments and exercises throughout the semester. The core assignment for the semester will be to write a 10-page (or less) screenplay in the 3-act story structure. Each student will write Act 1, Act 2, and Act 3 from about midterm to the end of the semester. At the end of the semester, each student will do one revision on their final screenplay.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-94	93-90	89-86	85-83	82-80	79-76	75-73	72-70	69-66	65-63	62-60	59-0

Late Work Policy

To ensure that students are accountable for submitting their work on time, the following late work policy has been established for the writing course:

- For work turned in within two weeks following the due date, students may receive up to 80% of the total grade for each assignment if submitted up to one week after the due date.
- For work turned in within two weeks following the due date, students may receive up to 50% of the total grade for each assignment if submitted up to two weeks after the due date.
- After two weeks, late work will no longer be accepted and the assignment will remain at '0'.

Please note that it is highly recommended to submit assignments by the designated due dates to fully demonstrate your understanding of the course material and receive the best possible grade. However, we understand that unexpected circumstances may arise, and this policy aims to provide a fair and reasonable solution for late submissions.

How to Navigate to Canvas

Online Tutoring

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:

<https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx>

If you have any additional questions reach out to elarningsupport@slcc.edu.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling

Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)