

AAD 0009 - CREATIVE WRITING (SCRIPTWRITING)

Catalog Description

Also known as ENGL 9

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL C1000 with grade of "C" or better
Hours: 54 lecture

Description: This is a creative writing course focused on scriptwriting intended for dramatic production with an emphasis on format, structure, plot, character, and writing style. Students will critically analyze professional models, view excellent examples of scriptwriting, and work on their own projects, which may include a one-act play, playwriting, and screenwriting. Students will have the opportunity to have their work critiqued in a workshop setting. (CSU)

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- CSLO #1: Evaluate professional scripts: identifying, interpreting, and analyzing the fundamentals of scriptwriting through a variety of forms, styles, and genres.
- CSLO #2: Apply story structure, character development, dialogue, plotting, and formatting while writing college-level scripts.
- CSLO #3: Discuss, critique, revise, and edit original scripts through peer review workshops.

Effective Term

Fall 2026

Course Type

Credit - Degree-applicable

Contact Hours

54

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Student Learning Hours

162

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental elements of scriptwriting.
2. Describe the evolution of the script from amphitheater to stage to film.
3. Analyze professional stage plays and screenplays, focusing on elements of effective visual storytelling and dramatic development.
4. Appraise fellow students' scriptwriting considering strength of structure, conflict, dialogue, character development, thematic development, and visual storytelling.
5. Apply the fundamental elements of storytelling in a diverse portfolio of original scriptwriting work.

General Education Information

- Approved College Associate Degree GE Applicability
 - AA/AS - Arts and Humanities
- CSU GE Applicability (Recommended-requires CSU approval)
- Cal-GETC Applicability (Recommended - Requires External Approval)
- IGETC Applicability (Recommended-requires CSU/UC approval)

Articulation Information

- CSU Transferable

Methods of Evaluation

- Classroom Discussions
 - Example: Guided by the instructor, students will engage in close reading of selected scripts to identify elements of scriptwriting to be applied to their own original work.
- Objective Examinations
 - Example: Students will identify literary and scriptwriting terms to match with correlating definitions and/or exemplary literary passages.
- Projects
 - Example: Students will submit at least three college-level scripts in a final portfolio. The portfolio will contain a total of 25-30 pages of revised scriptwriting.
- Skill Demonstrations
 - Example: Student will produce short, descriptive in-class writing to demonstrate an understanding of and ability to describe a scene, create a setting, develop a specific character, construct dialogue, and so on. Instructor will provide appropriate examples to model these skills.

Repeatable

No

Methods of Instruction

- Lecture/Discussion
- Distance Learning

Lecture:

1. Instructor will provide a history of the stage play, from Sophocles to Shakespeare to Lin-Manuel Miranda. The class discusses their experiences reading plays and watching plays in live theater.

Distance Learning

1. Instructor will demonstrate and oversee student analysis and evaluation of student writing, incorporating terms, concepts, and standards covered in lecture and discussion.

Typical Out of Class Assignments Reading Assignments

Read "Save the Cat" by Blake Snyder (Chapters 1–3) and watch the short film "Lights Out." What does Snyder mean by the "Save the Cat" moment? Identify the "Save the Cat" moment in "Lights Out." How does it shape our perception of the character?

Writing, Problem Solving or Performance

Write a short scene where two characters want different things, allowing their agendas to emerge through dialogue, emphasizing subtext and emotional shifts.

Other (Term projects, research papers, portfolios, etc.)

Complete a final portfolio of college-level, original scriptwriting demonstrating thorough knowledge of script style/format, central conflict, plot arc, complex character development, effective dialogue, developed themes, and visual storytelling in a comprehensive final portfolio.

Required Materials

- Finish the Script!
 - Author: Scott King
 - Publisher: CreateSpace
 - Publication Date: 2013
 - Text Edition: First
 - Classic Textbook?:
 - OER Link:
 - OER:
- The Complete Book of Scriptwriting
 - Author: J. Michael Straczynski
 - Publisher: Writer's Digest
 - Publication Date: 2002
 - Text Edition: First
 - Classic Textbook?:
 - OER Link:
 - OER:
- FADE IN: A Guide to Screenwriting Basics
 - Author: Candance Rose
 - Publisher: Creative Commons
 - Publication Date: 2021
 - Text Edition: First
 - Classic Textbook?:
 - OER Link:
 - OER: <https://una.pressbooks.pub/fade-in/>
- PLAYWRITING
 - Author: Shannon Dollar
 - Publisher: Creative Commons
 - Publication Date: 2023
 - Text Edition: First
 - Classic Textbook?:
 - OER Link:
 - OER: <https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/105627/overview>

Other materials and-or supplies required of students that contribute to the cost of the course.