

English 258W, Introduction to Screenwriting  
Winter 2011

**Time and Days:**

Day and Time:

M: 1-3

Room:

Instructor: Mr. Vande Zande

Office: S16

Office Phone: (989) 686-9538

e-mail: jcvandez@delta.edu

Office Hours:

**Required Texts:** Writing Movies: The Practical Guide to Creating Stellar Screenplays

**Required Materials:** One notebook

**Course Description:**

I designed this course for one simple reason: I kept hearing that some students wanted to learn how to write movies. In this course, you are going to learn and practice what goes into planning the writing of a movie. In addition, you'll learn and practice the craft of screenwriting and how a screenplay should be formatted on the page.

**OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES**

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

**Outcome 1: Begin original screenplay.**

**Objectives:**

- A. Write premises, ask major dramatic questions, construct movie maps, and compose up to twenty-five pages of an actual screenplay.
- B. Develop the craft of a screen writer.

**Outcome 2: Revise and edit original work.**

**Objectives:**

- A. Rewrite work in an effort to improve it.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of revision.

**Outcome 3: Interact productively with instructor and peers for the purpose of developing writing skills.**

**Objectives:**

- A. Give and receive verbal and written responses to student work.
- B. Demonstrate an open attitude towards feedback.

#### **Outcome 4: Learn by reading professional screenplays.**

##### **Objectives:**

- A. Demonstrate ability to understand a professional screenplay and discuss its strengths.

##### **Grading:**

There are 200 points available in this course:

First 20 pages of screenplay: 100 points

Chart of Major Events: 50 points

Formatting Email: 25 points

Making your presence felt: 25 points

##### **Attendance:**

Your English Division instructor will drop you from this course if you miss, for any reason, in excess of 2/15 of your classes for this course. For this particular course this semester (or term) that means in excess of 2 class periods. This is an English Division policy.

One absence in a row before the 12<sup>th</sup> week without contacting me, and I may drop you from the course. However, stopping attendance does not guarantee that I'll drop you. If you want to officially drop the course, you must do so through the Registration Office.

Also, coming in late or leaving early may count against you as an absence, especially if it happens frequently.

In short, try to be here on time every day, and stay the whole time. It will help make you a better writer.

#### **Schedule of Activities and Events**

(I reserve the right to change this syllabus to meet the unique needs of this class)

Day 1 – Introduction to the course, Chapter 1, and “Sleepwalker”

Day 2 – Chapter 2

Day 3 – Chapter 3

Day 4 – Chapter 4

Day 5 – Chapter 8 (238-246 [the rest optional]), Chapter 5

Day 6 – Chapter 6, Small Groups to go over Chart of Major Events

Day 7 – Table Read

Day 8 – Table Read

Day 9 – Table Read

Day 10 – Table Read

Day 11 – Table Read

Day 12 – Table Read

Day 13 – Table Read

Day 14 – Table Read

Day 15 – Table Read