Course Number: CWRI 9261

Course Title: Screenwriting Fundamentals

Course Description: This course focuses on the unique characteristics of screenwriting. From your original concept, you will learn to weave a story using dramatic structure, vivid characters, and cinematic conventions. This course will cover the basic structure of a script for film or TV. You will also be given guidance in rewriting and polishing your unique script. Furthermore, time will be spent on networking, contests, writer’s groups, agents, etc., with the ultimate goal of selling your “Spec Script” to a producer or studio.

Suggested Course Prerequisite(s): None

Course Resources: N/A

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course participants will have learned the fundamental concepts and techniques of dramatic writing including, but not limited to, the basic structure of a script, why the first 10 pages are most important, how to craft a marketable script, and develop believable characters. Participants will also receive guidance for approaching a rewrite; such as, how to analyze a scene, fix composition, develop antagonism, improve cast design, ensure a character arc, and polish and tighten dialogue. Participants will be encouraged to complete the first draft or at a minimum Act I of a feature length film or TV pilot script.

Certification Notes: N/A

Next course recommendation: Film Short Writing and Production

Refund Policy: Please refer to www.collin.edu/ce/inforegistrar.html for our refund policy. No refunds after the start time of the first class.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

Course Sessions: Listed are guidelines to indicate all topics that will be covered during your course. Do not plan your personal calendar based on these sessions. Your instructor will give you a calendar for your class that will indicate specific topics, assignments, and days.

Lesson Plan – by week or session:
Session 1: Getting Started - The Premise and Dramatic Structure
Session 2: Characters, Getting to Know Yours and Cast Design
Session 3: Scene Design and Step Outlining
Session 4: Screenplay Jargon, Revealing Character, Writing Scenes, and Writing Act I
Session 5: Writing Act II and Fine Tuning the Order & Flow of Scenes
Session 6: Writing Act III and Polishing & Tightening Dialogue
Session 7: Strategies for Rewriting and How to Do a Step-by-Step Analysis of Your Script
Session 8: Raising the Level of Antagonism, Twists & Turns, Improving Character Dimension, and Structuring the Transformational Arc
Session 9: Marketing Tips, Perfecting the Pitch, and Writing Your Acceptance Speech

Method of Evaluation: Unless otherwise stated, course completion is evaluated on the basis of attendance. Students must be in attendance 90% of each course in a certificate series for successful completion and to earn a certificate as specified.