**ENGLISH 15F: SCREENWRITING (#59152)**

**Reedley College – Spring 2017**

Ryan LaSalle – 12:00-1:15 pm – TTH FEM7

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Office: Annex 2 Office hours: TBA Final: Thursday, May 18 12-1:50pm

**The pitch…**

English 15F: Screenwriting will provide students with first hand experience studying professional screenplays as well as giving them the opportunity to create their own work in the form of scenes and sequences. Students will learn the art and craft of *story* which will include: developing ideas and concepts appropriate for films, building narrative (three act) structure, developing plot, character, and dialogue, and following genre conventions.

Upon successfully completing this class, a student should be able to observe and analyze various elements of a screenplay and be able to successfully write industry standard scenes and sequences which contribute to a full-length feature script.

**Getting it on the page…**

Regardless of whether or not students intend to pursue screenwriting after this semester, this is a course with all the rigor and expectations of a collegiate class. In order to succeed this semester, be prepared to: Attend class. Watch films (or scenes). Read scripts. Take notes. Ask questions. Write. Show interest (even if you have to fake it). Think critically and creatively. Participate in discussions.

**Textbooks:** The Screenwriters’s Bible, 6th edition, David Trottier

**Policies:** 2 absences allowed without penalty. Subsequent absences result in a loss of participation points. Absences totaling more than two weeks (four classes) within the first 9 weeks of class may cause the student to be dropped from the class. Late work will be accepted for partial credit with instructor’s approval (5% deduction for each class day late). Note: this does not apply to the final project and its components.

Tardiness should be avoided but in the rare event of coming to class late, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure the roll has been updated. In the event of plagiarism (see Schedule of Courses for more information) the student will fail the assignment or the class at the discretion of the instructor (depending on the nature and severity of the offense).

**Grading:** Grading will be based on a point system.

90%A 80%B 70%C 60%D 50%F (of total points available in class)

**(3-5) 1. Exercises 5**

**(2-4) 2. Scene projects 10**

**(1) 3. Final project (sequence) 20**

**4. Participation**  **10**

**Final drop date:** March 10, 2017

\*instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus as deemed necessary or appropriate.

\*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.