ENGLISH 15F: SCREENWRITING (#52598)

Reedley College – Spring 2021
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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,

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 Zoom meetings.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Evaluate screenplays of both professional models and student efforts on the basis of intention, merit, craft, using shared critical vocabulary.
- Recognize and employ effective strategies for writing screenplays on the basis of received criticism.
- Write in professionally accepted screenwriting format

*Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hope you will be able to do at the end of the course. This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student. In addition, the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes is done by the department in order to evaluate the program as a whole, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance.

Textbooks: The Screenwriters's Bible, 7th edition, David Trottier

Policies: 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.

The meeting participation grade is based on attending Zoom meetings. There will be approximately 10 Zoom meetings this semester and students should plan for attending at least 2 of those. This minimum (of 2) will yield a 70% for the meeting participation grade (14/20). However, if a student attends more Zoom meetings (above 2) this will increase the participation grade. A student will gain 1 point for each additional meeting (for example: 3 meetings (15/20), 4 meetings (16/20)…). It will most likely be possible to exceed the 20 points allotted for meeting participation.

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)

(4-6)	**1. Exercises**	**10**
(1)	**2. Midterm project**	**20**
(1)	**3. Final project**	**40**
	4. Meeting participation	**20**

Final drop date: Friday, March 12, 2021

*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.