

| COURSE OUTLINE | | |
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| TERM: Fall 2019 | COURSE NO: MOPA 304 | |
| INSTRUCTOR: | COURSE TITLE: Screenwriting III | |
| OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: | SECTION NO(S): | CREDITS: 3 |
| OFFICE HOURS: | | |
| COURSE WEBSITE: Moodle | | |

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT: Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

28.5 MOPA or 27 IDF credits of 200-level or higher coursework.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: In this course, students advance their application of narrative idea and skill, the practical and creative aspects of writing the screenplay, the ability to give and receive criticism, and the ability to research and articulate their ideas and to express such with individual artistic identity.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES:

Resource material is provided by the instructor or on reserve in the Main Library. Check Moodle for assignments and readings.

| COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES |
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| <p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and describe elements of <i>structure</i> for narrative and non-narrative projects. 2. Select and employ appropriate <i>research and theoretical tools to advance their ideas</i>. 3. Employ the concepts of <i>format, genre and media logic to comply with industry standards</i> 4. Seek and apply concepts and research from social (psychological and sociological), visual, phenomenological and industry sources 5. Advance their <i>character arcs, plot and dialogue</i> via workshop employing their research techniques. 6. Analyze the work of classmates and prepare constructive feedback to industry standards. 7. Interpret and apply feedback to the project in development where appropriate. 8. Research, write and orally pitch content based on audience, funding and artistic purpose. |

COURSE CONTENT:

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| WEEKS 1-15 |
| WEEK 1: Introduction to course, materials, and assignments |
| * Course goals, objectives and assignment overview. Giving and receiving constructive feedback. Introduction to creative process theories |
| WEEK 2: Screenplay review/ Reader reports |
| * Premise, theme, character, plot, genre, dialogue |
| WEEK 3: Character, psychology and archetype/research pt. 01 |
| * Psychological, sociological, phenomenological research methods in creating screen character and conflicts. |
| WEEK 4: Audiovisual research and writing/research pt.02 |
| * Understanding modalities of image, text, sound in sequentially based narrative and screenplay expression. |
| WEEK 5: Media logic, genre and format/ research pt.03 |
| * Media studies discourses. Researching genres, formats and audience |
| WEEK 6: Music video & Storyboarding |
| * Forms, formats and genre considerations in music video. Critical analysis. Introduction to storyboarding. |
| WEEK 7: Non-narrative modalities |
| * Commercials, experimental films, interstitials. Writing the artist statement |
| WEEK 8: Documentary/research pt. 04 |
| * Elements of the documentary. Factual modalities. Research as writing in documentary. Writing treatments |
| WEEK 9: Transmedia and nodal storytelling structures |
| * What is new media and transmedia? Nodal storytelling structures and interactivity. Writing concept bibles |
| WEEK 10: Table Reads/Guest Speaker |
| * Guest Speaker |
| WEEK 11: Table Reads/4 th Year Prep |
| * Development slates and applications to 4 th year |
| WEEK 12: Pitch Day |
| * Student pitches for Term 2 production |
| WEEK 13: Crew-up |
| * Project selection. Crew-up |
| WEEKS 14-15: Exam |
| <i>Final exam period</i> |

Fourth hour: may include student meetings with instructor, screenings and online contact.

| EVALUATION PROFILE | |
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| Assignments (X 3)* | 40% |
| Final Interdisciplinary Project – (Screenwriting component)** | 25% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| Participation and Attendance (see below) | 10% |
| Professionalism (see below) | 5% |
| Total | 100% |

| *ASSIGNMENTS | |
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| Assignment #1: Moodle Posts Students are required to produce 3 strings for discussion pertaining to premise, synopsis and step-outline, interacting with the instructor until their story parameters are approved and the project advances to first draft. | 10% |
| Assignment #2: Reader Report Students write and receive a blind reader report for an assigned screenplay. All screenplays submitted by an author must have a title page with a student number in place of their name. Deadlines are floating, dependent on delivery of scripts to instructor. Once assigned to write a report, the evaluating student has ten days to return their coverage to the instructor, who will forward the report to the author. | 15% |
| Assignment #3: Research Paper Students are required to write a 1500 to 2500 word research paper (with cover page, citations and references in MLA or APA format) that informs the direction of their screenplay or creative treatment in subsequent drafts upon completion of version 2.0 of their screenplay. Subjects may pertain to character psychology or archetype, phenomenological events within the story, genre, format or media logic components within their work. Final version of essay is due Week 12. | 15% |
| Total | 40% |

| **FINAL INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT* - (Screenwriting component) | |
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| No longer than 10 pages: (a) short film (b) a music video, (c) commercial, or (d) experimental film (which may adopt step-outline, storyboards, production bible and/or artist statement as means of expression) or, for third or fourth year development, (e) a feature length treatment or (f) transmedia project bible. The interdisciplinary project must conform to the needs of MOPA courses 305 Cinematography and 306 Directing. 1 st Draft is due Week 5. 2 nd draft in Week 10 | |
| 1 st Draft – story structure, character/objective and visual expression | 10% |
| 2 nd Draft – story, character/objective with progression of narrative, incorporation of feedback and shootability | 10% |
| Formatting | 5% |
| Total | 25% |

Attendance:

The grade for class participation is based on both the frequency and the quality of students' comments, questions and observations, with the emphasis on quality. The quality is determined by,

among other things, the relevance, insight and clarity of remarks.

Professionalism:

Students are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour towards their work, fellow-students, and their instructor. Students should demonstrate reliability, respect for and co-operation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines is necessary in this course. Students should have respect for equipment and systems, and a constructive response to criticism.

***Note:** The Final Interdisciplinary Project is a multi-course project, including MOPA 304 (Screenwriting III), MOPA 305 (Cinematography) and MOPA 306 (Directing). Grades for shared project may vary across courses due to the individuated evaluation profiles of each syllabus.

GRADING PROFILE:

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| A+ = 90-100 | B+ = 77-79 | C+ = 67-69 | D = 50-59 |
| A = 85-89 | B = 73-76 | C = 63-66 | F = 0-49 |
| A- = 80-84 | B- = 70-72 | C- = 60-62 | |

Incomplete Grades:

Grades of Incomplete “I” are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.:

Missed exams and quizzes will be assigned a grade of zero. Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken for each class and will form part of the final grade (See Evaluation Profile). This is a professional program. Accordingly, students are expected to be on time and to attend every class. Arriving more than 20 minutes after the commencement of class, or leaving early, will be considered an absence. Students with three unexcused absences will fail the course. When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and hand-outs.

English Usage:

All written work submitted must use good academic English and follow the guidelines provided in the Capilano University Guide to Writing Assignments (available from the University Bookstore). Students

are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices:

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only. Recording of class proceedings is prohibited. Students are expected to abide by university policy as stated in *OP.604 Acceptable Use and Security of Electronic Information and Technology*.

On-line Communication:

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

Computer lab usage:

No food or beverages are allowed in the University's computer labs at any time. Students must not abuse internet privileges by visiting inappropriate or illegal websites. Intentionally opening and/or altering other students' projects will not be tolerated. Respect for other students' work is of utmost importance. Offences regarding the above will result in the "0" mark in the participation grade, and restricted access to facilities.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.

PROGRAM OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

VISION STATEMENT

The School of Motion Picture Arts is dedicated to inspiring a new generation of independent Canadian filmmakers through the fostering and mentoring of emerging talent utilizing progressive learning environments and authentic production experiences, such that graduates make valued contributions to the global media culture.

| PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES |
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| Program Mission |
| To provide the encouragement, equipment, training and setting for a vital experience of creation and collaboration. Student filmmakers will expand and refine their practical, professional, artistic and social skills in order to acquire craft excellence and successfully integrate into the increasingly complex and diverse industries of filmed entertainment, digital communications and new media. |
| Program Goals |
| <p>Knowledge: To enable students to articulate and apply their knowledge of story and story development to documentary and narrative projects on all platforms; to combine and apply both practical and theoretical knowledge; to investigate and interpret a broad range of theoretical perspectives.</p> <p>Skills: To orchestrate a detailed industrial process; to manage time and budget on large projects over extended periods of time; to use technology as a tool to create innovative and authentic stories; to develop a convergent approach to creative content; to collaborate creatively.</p> <p>Value: To conceptualize, research, develop and produce projects from initial idea through to final product; to market and distribute projects; to develop innovative business models and strategies to build sustainable companies; to understand the role of film and the film industry in Canada's culture and economy; to identify potential areas/sectors of employment; to identify opportunities for further study; to articulate and pursue a unique and personal voice and vision through the artistic and technical means of filmmaking and visual communication, and, in particular, to use the tools and resources at their disposal with clarity, intelligence, resourcefulness and professionalism.</p> |

| PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES |
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| Students successfully completing this program will: |

1. Analyze historical, technological, philosophical and theoretical trends in the national and global cinemas;
2. Acquire a range of skills and applications of visual communication in order to expand their potential to realize and create meaningful career opportunities;
3. Contribute their technical skills, creative skills, and personal vision to the art of filmmaking;
4. Consult, liaise and negotiate in a professional manner in all aspects of the filmmaking process;
5. Develop industry relationships and create authentic learning environments in order to provide opportunities to expand their potential as independent filmmakers.