



**COWLEY COLLEGE
& Area Vocational Technical School**

COURSE PROCEDURE FOR

**INTRO TO SCREENWRITING
ENG2264 - 3 Credit Hours**

Student Level:

This course is open to students on the college level in either the freshman or the sophomore year.

Catalog Description:

ENG 2264 - INTRO TO SCREENWRITING (3 hrs)

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of screenwriting. The emphasis is to give an overall view of not only the basics of script writing, but to give a better understanding of film in general and how to apply it to creative writing. Critical analysis of movies will be used to aide students in the creation of original screenplays. Each student will learn to outline, draft, and pitch a professional body of work.

Prerequisites:

Students must have obtained a grade of C or higher in ENG2260 Creative Writing or instructor approval.

Controlling Purpose:

This course is designed to help the student increase their knowledge in screenwriting. They will learn the discipline of storytelling technique, scene writing, script writing, character development, and dialogue. Also, students will gain understanding in analyzing both film and scripts while learning how to outline, draft, and pitch their own original work.

Learner Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to obtain a better understanding of movies and formulate their own screenplays. They will also develop an understanding of creating character, plot, structure, and formula. Also, the students will have in-depth readings of bad and good screenplays, which is essential to creating their own work. By working together in a concentrated classroom, students will benefit from a positive work environment where they will share and exchange ideas.

Units Outcomes and Criterion Based Evaluation Key for Core Content:

The following outline defines the minimum core content not including the final examination period. Instructors may add other material as time allows.

Evaluation Key:

- A = All major and minor goals have been achieved and the achievement level is considerably above the minimum required for doing more advanced work in the same field.
- B = All major goals have been achieved, but the student has failed to achieve some of the less important goals. However, the student has progressed to the point where the goals of work at the next level can be easily achieved.
- C = All major goals have been achieved, but many of the minor goals have not been achieved. In this grade range, the minimum level of proficiency represents a person who has achieved the major goals to the minimum amount of preparation necessary for taking more advanced work in the same field, but without any major handicap of inadequacy in his background.
- D = A few of the major goals have been achieved, but the student's achievement is so limited that he is not well prepared to work at a more advanced level in the same field.
- F = Failing, will be computed in GPA and hours attempted.
- N = No instruction or training in this area.

UNIT 1: LEARNING THE AESTHETICS OF THE SCRIPT

Outcomes: Student will be able to recognize and use proper script format.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Understand the basics of screenplay writing, how it works, and how it translates on to the screen.
						Examine the basic dos and don'ts of formatting a script.
						Understand scenes and their function.

UNIT 2: BASICS OF STORYTELLING

Outcomes: Student will understand the nuances of building block script writing.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Learn about how to write plots, settings, and character types.
						Learn how to write action, narration, and dialogue.
						Learn how to write using basic fiction themes.

UNIT 3: READING OF SCREENPLAYS AND ANALYSIS

Outcomes: Student will gain an understanding of professional scripts and films through careful analysis.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Analyze film technique.
						Understand what makes both good and bad scripts.
						Understand how the written word translates to the screen.
						Become knowledgeable in dialogue technique.

UNIT 4: LEARNING THE PITCH AND TREATMENT

Outcomes: Student will be able to learn the skills to sell potential work, both orally and physically.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define a project in professional terms.
						Be able to sell an idea to a concentrated group.
						Draft and submit a treatment for their based upon their original script.

UNIT 5: DRAFTING/REVISING AN ORIGINAL SCRIPT

Outcomes: Student will produce a professional screenplay consistent with Hollywood standards.

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Create and write an original screenplay of at least 45 pages.
						Workshop and edit with their peers.
						Produce a professional piece in correct format with minimal grammar/spelling errors.

Projects Required:

One short screenplay
One treatment
One collaborative script
Character analysis essay
Film analysis essay
One Oral and Written Pitch

Textbook:

Contact Bookstore for current textbook.

Materials/Equipment Required:

Word-compatible software. Internet access.

Attendance Policy:

Students should adhere to the attendance policy outline by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy will be outlined by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Maximum class size:

12 students for Hybrid or F2F
20 students for Online

Course Time Frame:

The U.S. Department of Education, Higher Learning Commission and the Kansas Board of Regents define credit hour and have specific regulations that the college must follow when developing, teaching and assessing the educational aspects of the college. A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum

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of two hours of out-of-class student work for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit or an equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. The number of semester hours of credit allowed for each distance education or blended hybrid courses shall be assigned by the college based on the amount of time needed to achieve the same course outcomes in a purely face-to-face format.

Refer to the following policies:

[402.00 Academic Code of Conduct](#)

[263.00 Student Appeal of Course Grades](#)

[403.00 Student Code of Conduct](#)

Disability Services Program:

Cowley College, in recognition of state and federal laws, will accommodate a student with a documented disability. If a student has a disability which may impact work in this class which requires accommodations, contact the Disability Services Coordinator.