# 8/12/2020

# brcc keystone logo

Baton Rouge Community College

*Academic Affairs Master Syllabus*

Date Approved: 25 September 2020

Term and Year of Implementation: Fall 2020

**Course Title:** Introduction to Screenwriting

**BRCC Course Rubric:** ENGL 2093

**Previous Course Rubric**: ENGL 209

**Lecture Hours per week-Lab Hours per week-Credit Hours**: 3-0-3

**Per semester: Lecture Hours-Lab Hours-Instructional Contact Hours**: 45-0-45

**Louisiana Common Course Number:**

**CIP Code:** 50.0607

**Course Description:** Writing screenplays for workshop criticism. The course will introduce students to techniques of exposition, characterization, and dramatization for television and film. Students will write, at minimum, a finished first act (approx. 40-page script) of a feature-length screenplay and a draft with a three act structure.

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1023 (or ENGL 102) with a grade of "C" or better, or permission of department

**Co-requisites:** None

**Suggested Enrollment Cap:** 24

**Learning Outcomes.** *Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:*

1. Apply writing skills learned in college composition to create a student-originated portfolio of screenplays.

2. Engage in peer review workshops aimed to develop critical reading skills.

3. Apply fundamental strategies such as invention, drafting, revising, and editing.

**Assessment Measures.** Assessment of all learning outcomes will be measured using the following methods:

1. Instructor-designed tests, quizzes, exercises, and writing assignments

2. Written peer critiques of student screenplays

3. A completed, original one act screenplay of “performable” quality

**Information to be included on the Instructor’s Course Syllabi:**

* ***Disability Statement*:** Baton Rouge Community College seeks to meet the needs of its students in many ways. See the Office of Disability Services to receive suggestions for disability statements that should be included in each syllabus.
* ***Grading:*** The College grading policy should be included in the course syllabus. Any special practices should also go here. This should include the instructor’s and/or the department’s policy for make-up work. For example in a speech course, “Speeches not given on due date will receive no grade higher than a sixty” or “Make-up work will not be accepted after the last day of class”.
* ***Attendance Policy*:** Include the overall attendance policy of the college. Instructors may want to add additional information in individual syllabi to meet the needs of their courses.
* ***General Policies*:** Instructors’ policy on the use of things such as beepers and cell phones and/or hand held programmable calculators should be covered in this section.
* ***Cheating and Plagiarism*:** This must be included in all syllabi and should include the penalties for incidents in a given class. Students should have a clear idea of what constitutes cheating in a given course.
* ***Safety Concerns:*** In some courses, this may be a major issue. For example, “No student will be allowed in the lab without safety glasses”. General statements such as, “Items that may be harmful to one’s self or others should not be brought to class”.
* ***Library/ Learning Resources:*** Since the development of the total person is part of our mission, assignments in the library and/or the Learning Resources Center should be included to assist students in enhancing skills and in using resources. Students should be encouraged to use the library for reading enjoyment as part of lifelong learning.

**Expanded Course Outline:**

I. History and Role of Screenwriting

II. Adapting Material for the Screen

III. Narrative Structure: the Arc of the Story

IV. Character, Conflict, and Point of View

V. Character Development I: Action and Dialog

VI. Mise en Scene, Exposition, and Backstory

VII. Theme and Counterplot

VIII. Character Development II: Spectacle and Gesture

IX. Alternate Narratives and Points of View

X. Genre and Special Audiences

XI. Marketing the Screenplay