SAGRADO
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

Syllabus

Title:	Writing to Act: Screenwriting and Playwriting
Code:	ECT 405
Prerrequisite:	N/A
CREDITS:	3 credits | 45 contact hours | 1 term

Description
This workshop is structured in two parts with the goal of allowing students to practice the structures of screenwriting for film and television, as well as playwriting for staged productions. The course explores the similarities and distinctive features of both types of texts. By the end of the course, students will have developed a short screenplay or play. As a general rule, this course is taught through team-teaching.

Justification
This course fulfills the program's objective of emphasizing the role of the creative writer in the cultural ecosystem, as well as in various sectors and industries where the writer acts as a manager and facilitator of the transmission of ideas and concepts.

COMPETENCIES
The course develops the following competencies in students:

- **Communication**
- **Research and Exploration**

OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Foster the development of theater, film, and television by training creative, bold, and critical writers.

2. Compare and contrast the basic structures of screenwriting, television writing, playwriting, and/or dramatic works.

3. Analyze dramatic works and film scripts and offer constructive criticism of others' creative work.
4. Handle technical aspects related to the creative process for both types of texts.
5. Write a screenplay, short film, or short play for subsequent staging.
6. Understand the role of the playwright and/or screenwriter in the cultural and artistic ecosystem, as well as in various sectors and industries where they act as managers and facilitators of the transmission of ideas and concepts.

Content

I. Writing for the Stage
   A. What Is Staging?
      1. Origins and Evolution
      2. Differences and similarities between theater, film, and television.

II. How Do You Tell a Story?
   A. Elements of Dramatic Writing
      1. Synopsis
      2. Message
      3. Conflict
   B. Aristotle's Poetics
      1. Introduction
      2. Development
      3. End
      4. From the End to the Beginning: Beyond Aristotle's Poetics
   C. Dramatic Action
      1. Conflict
      2. Plot
      3. Points of View
      4. Symbols, Metaphors, and Allusions
   D. Character Development
      1. Protagonist and antagonist
      2. Supporting Characters
      3. Archetypes
      4. Historical, social, and personal background.

III. Basic Concepts for Screenwriting

   A. The sequence
      1. Scene
      2. Space

3. Time
4. Action

B. Technical Script
1. Shots and Framing
2. Camera positions
3. Transitions
4. Sound Design

IV. Cultural Identity
A. Historical, Social, and Cultural Context
1. Language and culture
2. Social Changes
3. Representation, Race, and Gender

METHODOLOGY

The following active learning strategies are recommended:

- Improvisation exercises to generate ideas
- Mindful and analytical reading
- Writing exercises
- Collaborative projects
- Guest lectures
- Attending plays and movies.

EVALUATION

Participation	30%
Written Assignments	20%
Oral Presentations	20%
Final Project	30%
TOTAL	100%

Student Learning Assessment

The institutional assessment rubric is applied to the core activity of the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alonso de Santos, J.L. (1998). *Dramatic Writing.* Castalia Publishing.

Beck Peacock, R. (2000). *The Art of Movie Making: From Script to Screen*. Prentice Hall. Comparato, D. (2000). *How to Write a Screenplay for Film and Television*. Planeta Publishing. Danan, J. (2012). *What Is Dramaturgy? And Other Essays.* Paso de Gato Publishing.

Eisenstein, S. (2018). *Staging: Narrative, Composition, and Editing.* La pajarita de papel.

Fernández Díez, F., & Martínez Abadía, J. (2000). *Basic Manual of Audiovisual Language and Narrative.* Paidós Papeles.

Giannetti, L. (2004). *Understanding Movies*. Prentice Hall.

Robino, A. (2015) *Manual of Dramatic Writing Analysis.* Ediciones Universidad Finis Terrae.

Sinisterra Sanchís, J. (2017). *Forbidden to Write Masterpieces: A Workshop on Textual Dramaturgy.* Editorial Paso de Gato.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

CELCIT: https://www.celcit.org.ar
PASO DE GATO: https://www.pasodegato.com
Journal of Performing Arts and Performativity:
https://investigacionteatral.uv.mx/index.php/investigacionteatral/

You can find more information resources related to the course topics on the library's website: http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/

Reasonable Accomodation

For detailed information on the process and required documentation, please visit the appropriate office. To ensure equal opportunity, in compliance with the ADA (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, any student who requires Reasonable Accomodation or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice-Presidency for Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón to take courses with or without academic credit. A breach of academic integrity is any act or omission that fails to demonstrate the honesty, transparency, and responsibility that should characterize all academic activity. Any student who violates the policy on honesty, fraud, and plagiarism is subject to the following sanctions: a grade of zero on the assessment and/or having to redo the seminar assignment; a grade of F(*) in the seminar; or suspension or expulsion, as set forth in the Academic Integrity Policy document effective November 2022.

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