

Syllabus

CMST 216 - SCRIPTING FOR FILM, VIDEO, and MULTIMEDIA | Spring 2016 5 Credits

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OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment Only

TEXTBOOKS:

TELEVISION AND SCREEN WRITING: FROM CONCEPT TO CONTRACT
by Richard A. Blum

THE WRITER'S JOURNEY
by Christopher Vogler

*texts are available at college bookstore

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course presents the mechanics of scripting for both new and old media. The student is taught the correct script format for both motion picture and television scripts and the job of the screenwriter in pre-production and production. The student will also be introduced to writing non-linearly for the interactive technologies such as games and the web. The student will create templates from which to work when writing both linearly and non-linearly. The course will also show how the students go about protecting their work.

▪ Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct on the [Bellevue College web site](#).

IMPORTANT LINKS

▪ Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to the [Technology Services web site](#).

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Technology Services web site](#).

▪ Disability Resource Center (DRC)

[The Disability Resource Center](#) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125, or visit the [ASN web site](#).

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit the [DRC website](#) for application information into our program and other helpful links.

▪ Public Safety

Public Safety and Emergencies

Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at 425-564-2400 (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering on the [Public Safety web site](#).

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these two rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response - We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to) - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you feel safety questions or concerns at any time.

▪ Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- [Enrollment Calendar](#) - On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- [College Calendar](#) - This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Describe what a motion picture or television “treatment” is and why “treatments” are important.
2. Construct and “pitch” an idea to the class and “sell the class” on the idea, citing project cost, target audience, and why the project would be a success.
3. Identify and critique the “mythic structure” of both a story and a screenplay
4. Explain the difference between a symbol and an archetype, and show what they represent in a particular character or idea within a story/screenplay.
5. Explain the difference between a “digital” or multimedia script and a script for so-called “linear” media.
6. Discuss the importance of Aristotle’s six elements of drama for playwrights and how those ideas pertain to today’s media.
7. Present a rough interactive multimedia prototype.
8. Illustrate the use of a back-story for leading characters in scripts.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

"It all begins with the word;"
The Writer's Journey;
Who Is Your Audience
The idea; Visualizing the idea;
Atmosphere - Subjective or Objective? P.O.V.
Use of Symbols; Products & Ad Images

For Week 2 -

Book 1 of Vogler
Chapter 4 of Blum

Week 2: Story Development & Format

The Outline; the Treatment
Plot & Story; Theme & Subject
Characters & Character Biographies
Copywriting and Protecting Your Work

For Week 3 -

Chapters 6 & 7 in Blum

**LOGLINE & BIOGRAPHY OF ONE MAJOR CHARACTER IN YOUR PIECE
DUE - WEDS. WEEK 3 – USE FORM FOUND ON SITE**

Week 3: Character and Scene Development

Key Characters - Who Does the Theme Come Through?

Scene development

The First Draft

"Movie Talk" vs. "Reel Talk"

When to Use Dialogue - When Not to Use Dialogue

Use of Action

For Week 4 - Pages 95-157 in Vogler

Chapters 8 & 9 in Blum

**OUTLINE DUE - WEDS. WEEK 4
ON FRIDAY THE HERO'S JOURNEY FORM IS DUE**

Week 4: The Script

Length, Style, Format - Film vs. TV Style

Formatting

Formatting Tools

Screenplay Formatting Software

For Week 5 - Pages 157-247 in Vogler/Part 1

Week 5: Non-Linear Writing

Overview and introduction

Just What Is Multimedia? - a definition and description - the variety of uses,
and the technology utilized

Background - from The Time Machine to the Multimedia explosion and the
Web

Orwellian Years

Why An Interactive Piece? - Does what you want to write lend itself to
multimedia and interactivity

For Week 6 -

For Week 6 - FILM TREATMENT DUE WEDNESDAY BY 5:00 PM

Week 6: Writing for Interactivity:

Guide For the New Developer

Choosing an "Interactive" Subject or Storyline

Writing for Multimedia & Interactivity

Preparing the script

Brainstorming - Goals & Objectives

The Treatment

The Content Outline

Either a Content Outline or FIVE PAGES IN SCREENPLAY FORMAT DUE WEDS. BY 5:00 PM

Week 7: Writing The Interactive Script

Non-Linear Script Writing

TREATMENT & CONTENT OUTLINE = SCRIPT

Writing the Interactive Script

Storytelling

Prototypes

Prototype Descriptions

Sketch Prototypes/Creative Models

FIVE MORE PAGES IN SCREENPLAY FORMAT DUE WEDS. BY 5 PM

Week 8: Navigation for Interactive Multimedia

Mapping Your Design Concept - Objectives, Audience Profile, Content Delivery Systems

Navigation: Definition and Explanation

Navigational Components:

Navigational Pathways and Rules

Decision Points (where does the program become truly interactive?)

World's Fair Template

NEXT 3 to 5 PAGES OF SCRIPT DUE WEDS. 5:00 pm

Week 9: Production of the Interactive Piece

The Production Process

The Writer's Role During Production

Production Integration

Either: A DESCRIPTION OF INTERACTIVE PROJECT Or COMPLETE 10-15 PAGE SCRIPT DUE - WEDS. WEEK 10

Week 10: Is The End Of Writing In Sight?

New Media, New Genres, New Creativity

Week 11: Preparation and Presentation of Final SCRIPTS

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a one to three page treatment written according to Vogler's Stages of a Hero's Journey. This will later be developed into the first five pages of a screenplay. There will also be a concise but detailed character biography of one main character. Students will then team up for the Final which will be a "pitch" and presentation to the rest of the class of a interactive multimedia project written for the web.

GRADING The grades will be added and divided by the number of assignments given. Note: some assignments are embedded within the online material.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Just as in a classroom, disruptions and impoliteness are not tolerated, neither will they be tolerated within the confines of our online "classroom." Students are to show respect towards each other and their instructor, which includes respect and tolerance for each others ideas. Any sort of disrespect will, at the very least, impact negatively on your class participation grade.

MEETINGS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR will be by appointment. The instructor is not always on campus, but if you feel you really must meet, then something will be arranged