

Spokane Falls Community College
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OUTLINE

Prefix and Course Number: DRMA 280
Course Title: Writing for Stage and Screen

Last Modified: Winter | 2020

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Develop familiarity with the elements of drama—such as plot, character, diction, theme, and spectacle—as well as an understanding of how these elements work together within a work for theatre, film, and/or television.
2. Investigate how various script forms (stage, screen, short, full-length) allow for different kinds of storytelling and levels of complexity.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of proper formatting and the ability to prepare a script for production.
4. Support peers in their artistic processes by contributing positively to the workshop through careful critiquing of each other's work.
5. Understand the function of the first draft as a basis for beginning the real work of developing a script through various stages of revision.
6. Identify the process by which writers submit scripts for production.

Course Outline:

Elements of Drama and Script Structures (approximately two weeks)

- Review of story structures and elements of drama for theatre and film.
- Review the process for providing and accepting feedback
- Demonstration of outlining techniques for film and theatre writing
- Demonstration of proper formatting techniques for film and theatre

Writing for the Stage: Monologue & Short Play (approximately four weeks)

- Introduction to writing monologues for theatre.
- Review of the purpose and usage of various writing exercises and strategies.
- Introduction to organizing, and participating in, staged readings
- Hands-on work writing and evaluating short play scripts.

Writing for the Screen: Short Film Script (approximately three weeks)

- Introduction to the visual aspect of storytelling, and contrasting writing for the stage vs writing for the screen.
- Introduction to film genre styles
- Investigating audience expectations as they relate to genre storytelling
- Hands-on work writing and evaluating short film scripts.

Production & Professional Opportunities (approximately two weeks)

- Research various appropriate production companies, theatres, and competitions for script submissions
- Introduction to production contracts, commissions, and the business of writing for stage and screen.
- Setting up script readings and handling rewrites