

New Course Proposal Form

Directions:

- A. Complete this form.
- B. Attach a syllabus or course guidelines that include:
 - a. List of measurable student learning outcomes
 - b. Information on how outcomes will be assessed including descriptions of reading and writing activities, projects, presentations, testing, etc.
 - c. List of course requirements such as attendance, assignments, etc.
- C. Have your proposal reviewed by the appropriate department and school/college committee.
- D. Submit your proposal to the University Curriculum Committee in care of the Office of Academic Affairs.

Form Information:

1. Department/Program: Scriptwriting

2. Course

Information: SCPT / 3150 / Topics

Prefix	Number	Title
<u>3</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>Varies.</u>
Credit Hours		Prerequisites

3. Catalog Description for the catalog: (This description should briefly describe the basic content of the course as it will be offered.)

Offered periodically to deal with topics in scriptwriting not covered by regularly offered courses (for example, scriptwriting for a specific genre or a narrow aspect of craft as it pertains to writing for film or television). The prerequisites may vary with the topic. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

4. May students repeat this course for credit? Yes, if content varies.

5. What is the rationale for adding this course?

a. How does it support the philosophy and enhance the curriculum of your department?

This course will allow students to broaden their experience in screenwriting; the department intends the specific topics to supplement the courses already required in the major.

b. How does it relate to the overall University curriculum?

It will allow students a broader experience in scriptwriting and will allow them to focus on a specific genre or on form. Possible topics:

- Writing the Short Film
- Alternative Narrative Structures
- Writing the Romanic Comedy
- Writing the Animated Feature
- Writing the Mock-umentary
- Documentary Writing
- Writing the Corporate Script

6. Should this new course be considered for General Education coding? No.
If yes, attach the Application for General Education Coding Form.

7. Staffing requirements:

a. Qualifications necessary for instructor: MA or practical experience

b. What staffing changes, if any, will be necessary to offer this additional course? None.

8. When will this course be initiated? Fall 2007 How often will it be taught? As needed
Summer 2007

9. Does this course affect degree requirements in your, or any other, department/program's major, emphasis, minor, or certificate? Yes.

If yes, please attach corrected catalog copy for approval.

10. List any existing University course(s), undergraduate or graduate, which are similar in title and/or subject matter and explain how this course differs from them. None.

11. Are University resources adequate to support this course? (library holdings, space, specialized equipment, etc.) Yes.

If not, what additions are necessary?

12. What course(s), if any, will be dropped to make room for this course? None.

13. What entities (department, college/school) have reviewed and approved this proposal?
Department of Communications and Journalism

Signatures:

[Signature]
Department/Program Chairperson

1 November 17 2006
Date

[Signature]
Dean of College/School

1 November 17, 2006
Date

Please note: The specific learning outcomes will vary depending on the specific topic. We are attaching a sample syllabus for one of the Topics courses we may offer if the committee approves the course number.

[Signature]
Chair, Curriculum Committee

12/15/06
Date

Sample syllabus for possible special topics offering under SCPT 3150

Instructor: Jorge Oliver
joliver@webster.edu, (314) 961-2660, X8631
Meets: Wednesdays, from 2 PM - 4:50 PM
Office Hours:

Course Description:

Exploration of visual and verbal screenwriting strategies for developing short films in both standard and experimental formats. The course will provide students with the necessary tools and information to write a short screenplay in proper format. By completing assigned exercises, the student will develop the final draft of 10 to 25 page long screenplay. Screenings in class will foster critical viewing of short films as it pertains to content, character development, and structure.

Outcomes:

- The successful student will come out of the class having completed a short format screenplay.
- Successful students will also:
 - be able to tell a story using the cinematic language.
 - develop critical skills in analyzing the structure of short films and their scripts.
 - develop skills in communicating and presenting creative ideas to their peers.

Prerequisites:

Upper division standing and consent of instructor.

Course Outline:

- Week 1:** Introduction. Articulation of goals for class. The short film vs. the feature film. Genres. How to get ideas.
- Week 2:** The Fundamentals. Basic elements of a screenplay. Developing the idea and story.
- Week 3:** Character Development
- Week 4:** The short film structure. The treatment or step sheet.
- Week 5:** More elements of structure
- Week 6:** Proper Screenwriting Format. Using software to write your screenplay.
- Week 7:** Scene Construction. An exercise with improvisation and character goals.
- Week 8:** Writing dialogue. Subtext and beats.
- Week 9:** Alternative and Experimental Shorts.
- Week 10:** Writer's Group meets to discuss first draft.
- Week 11:** Reading of screenplays in class.
- Week 12:** Discussion of Second Draft by writer's group

Week 13: Reading of screenplays in class.

Week 14: Reading of screenplays in class.

Week 15 Final Drafts Due

Instructional Method:

The class will consist of weekly screenings, lectures and discussion on assigned readings. Films shown in class will demonstrate concepts covered in the course. Students scripts will be read in class.

Materials:

The required textbooks will be:

Cole/Haag **The Complete Guide to Standard Script Formats – Part I: The screenplay**, CMC Publishing, 1996

Cowgill, Linda J. **Writing Short Films: Structure and content for screenwriters**, iFilm, 1997

Levy, Edmond **Making a Winning Short**, Owl Books

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. You must arrive on time. A point will be deducted for each unexcused absence and points will be deducted for repeated tardiness.

This class will require that you write and hand in assignments on a weekly basis. A point will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.

NO INCOMPLETES will be considered for this course, no exceptions.

You will need to make several copies of your script for your writer's group.

You are required to participate in class and to provide input for other students' scripts.

Percentage of Final Grade

Story Idea	5
Proposal	5
Character Biographies	10
Step Sheet/Treatment	10
First Draft	10
Second Draft & Story Arc	10
Final Screenplay	30
Screenwriter's Journal	10
Attendance & Participation	<u>10</u>
	100%

The proposed changes to the Speech Communication Studies curriculum will result in two significant benefits for our students. First and foremost, SPCM students will have a streamlined curriculum that will better represent a depth and breadth of salient aspects of a general education in speech communication studies. At present, 21 of the required 51 hours are selected from a list of electives. While the flexibility was thought to have been a strength of the program, what has materialized is a lack of consistency in what students are taking to complete their degrees. In some cases, students are lacking requisite knowledge for core courses because of their elective choices. In other cases, students are graduating with a SPCM degree that is void of critical relational and rhetorical concepts that are central to the discipline. The proposed changes insures that these central concepts are a part of students' degree programs, and that greater consistency among degree plans characterizes the pool of SPCM majors.

A second benefit is that the SPCM degree, with these proposed changes, will be brought more in line with other School of Communication degree programs. At present, ours is the only degree program with (1) no ethics requirements, and (2) a large percentage of elective hours making up the degree program. These changes bring us more in line with the curricular approach of other communication programs at Webster.