

COURSE TITLE: Screenwriting

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
Moderate	20 minutes	District: None Department Suggestion: A in English 8 CP or B in English 8 H

Course Description:

This course will instruct students how to develop, write, analyze, and polish their own feature film script (90-120 pages). This skills-oriented, standards-based course includes instruction in critical thinking, literary analysis of fiction and nonfiction prose, drama, reading development, writing development, oral and written language conventions, listening and speaking skills, vocabulary development, and the technology skills necessary for success on standardized tests, in higher education goals, and in the workplace. The student will also obtain a greater understanding of the rules and nature of screenwriting, episodic and short film writing. At the end of the course, each student will have a finished screenplay to market. The rigorous nature and enrichment of this course serve to prepare students for Honors and AP courses.

Grading:

Click [HERE](#)

Syllabus:

Refer to individual teacher website

Supplemental Information:

UC a-g Subject Area "g"

SCREENWRITING CP; SEAN FLAHERTY (Mr. F); NPHS, 2017-2018

COURSE OVERVIEW, RULE, REQUIREMENTS, BASIS FOR EVALUATION, SCREENING POLICY, SCREENPLAY CONTENT RESTRICTIONS, and CONTRACT

Course Overview: In this course you will learn how to develop, write, analyze, and polish your own feature film script (90-120 pages). You will obtain a greater understanding of the rules and nature of screenwriting. At the end of the course, you will have a finished screenplay to market.

Class Rule: THINK. Think carefully before you act in order to learn better and become a better person: you'll pay attention, follow instructions, be where you should be, maintain order, behave responsibly and honestly, and show respect for yourself, others, and our surroundings. Consequences for acting carelessly (detention, etc.) may be imposed to improve your thinking.

Policies & Requirements:

- **Supplies and Books:** You are responsible for taking care of every book issued. You must also bring the following items to class every day: a notebook with a supply of 8½ x 11 paper, a black or blue pen, a red pen or pencil. It's strongly recommended that you also have an 8-gig flash- or thumb-drive to back up your script work.
- **Electronic devices:** Phones, etc. must be turned off and be *off your person* at all times, unless otherwise instructed--or Mr. F will take the device until after school.
- **Honesty:** In this class, the school's policy for dealing with cheating and dishonesty will be upheld. Please be aware that the following constitutes dishonesty: doing work for someone else or trying to get credit for work that has been copied from another's, downloaded and printed from the Internet, or done by someone else.
- **Tutorial Help:** If you begin to struggle in the class, ask Mr. F for help. He's available most days during 1st and 5th period and by appointment (e.g., at lunch).
- **Homework Policy:** Homework is a critical tool whose purpose is to help you reach course objectives. Your homework will consist of daily preparation for upcoming classes, including self-directed study, writing, reading and/or viewing, as well as preparing presentations and projects. Because it is a tool, **homework will not count toward your grade**, but it is indispensable for gaining proficiency. Thus, you are expected to dedicate an average of 20 minutes/day (including weekends) to homework. Please ask if you want Mr. F to suggest specific areas, strategies or exercises for work at home.
- **Make-up Policy:** Upon your return from an excused absence, you must schedule to make up any missing evaluations and/or assignments so that they are completed within the same number of days as the number of classes missed. After this period of time, a missing evaluation/assignment may be counted as a zero.

Basis for Evaluation

Essential objectives are the fundamental objectives of the course; so they're very important. If

you don't reach the minimum level (C-) in each essential objective, you won't be qualified for the expected performance tasks; therefore, the essential objectives must **each** be achieved with at least **70%** proficiency, or else your grade will be no greater than a "D+", **even if your overall average is higher.**

The essential objectives will be tested once they are studied and retested in the next grading period. If you perform poorly on these evaluations, you'll have one last opportunity to make up the objective(s) before a grade report is issued. A satisfactory performance on these make-up quizzes provides a "**safety net**", i.e., a grade of 7/10 that protects you from automatically getting lower than "C-".

Integration assessments, however, constitute the greater focus of this course. Integration involves authentic performance tasks in the screenwriting world.

Your grade for grading periods 1-3 will be based on your performance in the following areas:

❖	Participation/Effort	20%
❖	Essential Objectives	10%
❖	Integration assessments	70%

Your grade for the fourth (last) grading period will be weighted as follows:

❖	First Quarter Grade	10%
❖	Second Quarter Grade	15%
❖	Third Quarter Grade	20%
❖	Participation/Effort	14%
❖	Essential Objectives	1%
❖	Integration assessments	40%

Bear in mind that for a time your grade may be lower than your overall average due to trouble with some essential objective(s): **this may affect your grade point average and consequently your eligibility for extracurricular activities and other privileges.** Avoid this problem by studying and clarifying your doubts responsibly. Mr. F will make sure your quarter grade(s) reflect your proficiency once you've overcome any difficulties.

10-pt Grading Scale:

End-of-Grading-Period Reporting Percentages:

10	Excellent	6	Insufficient	A+ (98-100)	B (84-86)	C- (70-73)	F (0-59)
9	Very Good	4-5	Poor	A (94-97)	B- (80-83)	D+ (68-69)	
8	Good	1-3	Very Poor	A- (90-93)	C+ (77-79)	D (64-67)	
7	Satisfactory			B+ (87-89)	C (74-76)	D- (60-63)	

Screening Policy: Parts of several narrative films will be screened in the course as needed to illustrate certain concepts of screenwriting. No part of any *R*-rated movies will be shown.

Screenplay Content Restrictions: In this class, you will be writing your own screenplay. Your screenplay must not entail overt nudity or sexuality, gratuitous violence or objectionable language, depict drug use or alcoholic drinking in a frivolous light, nor contain any other content that may be deemed questionable in taste. When in doubt, get clearance from Mr. F.

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Class Contract: I have been advised of the class rule, requirements, basis for evaluation, screening policy, and script content restrictions that will be applied in Mr. F.'s Screenwriting CP class.

student's name (printed)

student's signature

parent/guardian's signature