

LMC 3234 - LS

Creative Writing, 3 credits

Tues, Thurs | 8:00 AM - 9:55 AM

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours & Location
John Thornton	John.thornton@lmc.gatech.edu	Tuesdays 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Creative Writing: Introduction to Screenwriting is an introductory course designed for aspiring screenwriters eager to explore the art of crafting compelling stories for the screen. Students will learn the foundational principles of screenplay writing, including concept and theme development, dramatic structure, character arc, dialogue, visual storytelling, and proper script formatting. Drawing from personal experiences, observations, and imagination, students will develop their storytelling skills through writing exercises, class discussions, script analyses, and film critiques. The course emphasizes hands-on learning, encouraging students to refine their creative voices and technical abilities. As a culmination of their efforts, students will produce a polished short screenplay as their final project.

PREREQUISITES

Undergraduate Semester level ENGL 1102. Minimum Grade of 'D.'

CORE IMPACTS

This is a Core IMPACTS course in the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content and support their broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad, broad-orienting question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary or philosophical texts or works in the visual or performing arts.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

COURSE GOALS

This course aims to ...

- Provide students with a solid foundation in screenwriting principles such as dramatic structure, theme development, character arc, and conflict resolution.
- Encourage students to generate original and compelling story ideas by drawing from personal experiences, observations, and imagination.
- Equip students with the ability to format screenplays to industry standards and employ visual storytelling techniques effectively.
- Foster the ability to analyze and critique scripts and films for their thematic, structural, and cultural elements.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course ...

- Students will develop an understanding of the foundational principles of screenwriting, including dramatic structure, theme, character arc, conflict, pacing, and resolution.
- Students will generate compelling ideas, characters, and narratives by drawing on personal experiences, observations, and imagination.
- Students will learn the technical skills of screenplay formatting and the effective use of visual language in storytelling.
- Students will produce a polished short screenplay culminating in the creative and technical skills developed during the course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook

Screenplay Fundamentals by Irv Bauer and Vimi Bauer

The textbook is available for free through O'Reilly Online Learning. I have created this playlist on O'Reilly Online Learning that contains all of the required texts we will examine throughout the semester. To view the playlist, you must register for an account with O'Reilly. To do this:

1. Navigate to <https://learning.oreilly.com/playlists/3092f715-c830-4265-91f5-acb0787606ef>
2. Enter your GT Email address
3. Create an account
4. Click the Documentary Course Playlist

Software

Fade In (**Free Version**; [Download Link](#))