

Writing for Stage and Screen

Summer 2026

Instructor	Melissa Foulger	Class	LMC-3236
Email	melissa.foulger@lmc.gatech.edu	Pre-req	ENGL 1102
Office		Satisfies	HUM Req.
Office Hours	Tuesday: 11:00-12:00	Class Time	1:30 – 3:25 pm
	Or by appointment/email me	Location	TBD

Description

This course will help students develop creative writing techniques in the genre of **short** scripts (film screenplays and dramatic stage plays). The course will discuss elements of form, craft, language, style, theme, character, plot, story, genre conventions, etc., both as they pertain to creative writing more generally and to writing for film and drama specifically. We will use scriptwriting software to write our scripts, and examine and analyze screenplays, stage plays, and read films and play for inspiration as well as direction. Students will develop several screenplays/plays, from ideas to drafts ... to drafts... to drafts... to polished, producible work, through invention exercises, revision exercises, small group feedback, large group workshops, etc. Additionally, student will be expected to develop critical eyes towards filmmaking and playwriting, to study texts, and write reflexively about the work they and others have produced in order to contextualize, understand, and appreciate craft.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

- Advance their understanding of what constitutes readable, interesting, and dynamic creative writing;
- Develop, revise, and polish several short scripts (plus one short fiction story) in preparation for some of them to be filmed in a later semester, outside the scope of this class;
- Read, analyze, and communicate more contextually and skillfully;
- Engage in critical discussion of creative works by fellow students as well as published screenwriters and filmmakers;
- Assess their own writing for strengths and areas of improvement, but be able to articulate this information; and
- Co-create knowledge in a collaborative learning environment.

Additional Learning Outcomes Per LMC & BOR

Students will also be able to:

- Cultivate awareness of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts; and
- Describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts.

Required Materials

- Assorted resources, as needed. (These will be available in Canvas, as hand-outs, and/or as links.)
- A Celtx account (<https://www.celtx.com>) or access to other scriptwriting software. Don't buy the pay versions – the free versions are fine.
- Something to write with/on