

TERM: Spring 2025

COURSE TITLE: CA: Writing for Stage and Screen

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 4500.02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T 6:00pm-9:20pm

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Younger

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This workshop is a masterclass in dramatic writing for students interested in telling stories for theater, film, and television. It introduces students to the craft of writing for stage and screen with an eye toward professional development. Through weekly workshops, discussions, assignments, in class writing exercises, and work on individual scripts, students will explore premise, story structure, character, theme, world, symbol, plot, scene construction, and dialogue. We will study scripts and discuss student work as well as reading materials from successful playwrights and screenwriters. This workshop's emphasis is on process, risk-taking, creative generosity, artistic humility, finding one's own voice, and eventually putting one's work out into the world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this workshop, students will learn to appreciate the fundamentals of writing for stage and screen; to comprehend and use the language of theater, film, and television; to hone the skill of reading and interpreting scripts; to think dramatically about the ways we look at ourselves, each other, and the world around us; to construct compelling, entertaining, and commercially viable scripts; to analyze the subtle but profound differences between plays, screenplays, and teleplays with an eye toward adaptation; to prepare for a possible future in writing for stage and screen; and to foster a life-long love of storytelling through theater, film, and television.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Upper-division English Majors and Minors Only

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Anatomy of Story by John Truby. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. ISBN 978-0865479937

COURSE WORK / EXPECTATIONS

Weekly reading, writing exercises, submitted pages, and workshops resulting in 45-60 pages of work for the semester.

This course fulfills the following undergraduate English Major requirements:

LOWER DIVISION

_____ Disciplinary Research
_____ History of Literature, Media & Culture
_____ Reading and Writing Genres
_____ Theory, Power, and Rhetoric

UPPER DIVISION

_____ Pre-1800 Literature
_____ Race, Intersectionality & Power
__X__ Creative/Artistry Course
_____ 5000 level Seminar
_____ Electives