

**ENGLISH 204C Intro Creative Writing: Screenwriting (WI)  
CRN 63489 (3 credits)**

**Pālanakila 124 M & W 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Desi Poteet **E-MAIL:** [poteetd@hawaii.edu](mailto:poteetd@hawaii.edu)  
**OFFICE:** 'Ākoakoa 237 **PHONE:** 236-9188  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Thursday 10-12; Friday 10-11; and by appointment  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2016

**WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT**

*Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.*

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

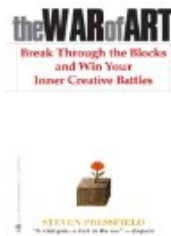
English 204C Introduction to Creative Writing (Screenwriting) introduces students to the basic practices and principles of screenwriting.

Prerequisite: Grade of “C” or better ENG 100 or consent of instructor.

Recommended course preparation: Students should possess a strong foundational knowledge of grammar, word, usage, and punctuation. Additionally, students must be able to accept constructive criticism from peers and the instructor.

This course satisfies the following graduation requirement: DA

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND WRITING TOOLS**



- Johnson, Claudia Hunter: *Crafting Short Screenplays that Connect* (CSSTC) [www.focalpress.com/cw/johnson](http://www.focalpress.com/cw/johnson) (link to short films from CSSTC)
- Pressfield, Steven; *The War of Art* (WOA)
- Writers journal—a composition book or journal used exclusively for 204C
- Pens & highlighters (different color inks)
- Screenwriting software (<https://www.celtx.com/index.html> - \*free!!!; or Final Draft, Movie Magic, etc.) \*Students used celtx last semester and found it worked well.

## RECOMMENDED BASIC SKILL LEVEL AND TIME COMMITMENT

Ability to: arrive in class on time and prepared for discussions and workshops; carefully read texts and view films; and write papers that contain and follow a clear thesis statement (or point).

Expect to dedicate two to three hours of study time **per** class to: read and analyze texts; view and analyze films; write screenplays and essays; and complete other assignments.

## COURSE CONTENT and STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will focus on screenwriting techniques, character development, dialogue, story structure, plot strategies, theme, genre, applicable terminology, and the experience of the writing and rewriting process. Activities include screenwriting, viewing and analyzing short films, in-class writing assignments, reading essays, reading and critiquing short screenplays, and participating in writing workshops.

The student learning outcomes for English 204C are to:

1. Create original short screenplays that include screenwriting format, devices, and conventions.
2. Propose and employ feedback in the writing workshop model.
3. Enter screenplays for local and/or national contests and/or production.

## COURSE TASKS, GRADING, AND ASSESSMENT

<i>Learning Opportunity</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>
Readings and Responses	65
Writers Journal (insights, responses, ideas, etc.)	60
Fairy Tale Adaptation – Group Project	50
“Discovery”/“Decision” (mini-screenplay)	20
“Boxing Match” (mini-screenplay)	20
“Connection” (mini-screenplay)	20
“Long Short” Screenplay (8-10 pages)	50
Rewrites (4 @ 10 points each)	40
Reflection essay (3-4pp)	60
Writing Workshops/Labs (based on attendance & participation)	60
Film Review	25
Competition Submission	10
Conferences (2 @ 10 points each or <b>minus 15 points for each you miss</b> )	20

A – 450+; B – 400-449; C – 350-399; D – 300-349; F – 299 and below

An “N” grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning objectives and is not yet prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in the class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal or family emergencies.

## HALLMARKS OF WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES

- 1 **The course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.** Instructors assign formal and informal writing, both in class and out, to increase students' understanding of course material as well as to improve writing skills.
- 2 **The course provides interaction between teacher and students while students do assigned writing.** Individual conferences are mandatory for WI courses at WCC.
- 3 **Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade.** Writing assignments must make up at least 40% of each student's course grade.
- 4 **The course requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4000 words, or about 16 pages.** Depending on the course content, students may write analytic essays, critical reviews, journals, lab reports, research reports, or reaction papers, etc. In-class exams and drafts are not counted toward the 4000-word minimum.
- 5 To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, **the class is restricted to 20 students.**

## STUDENT CONDUCT

*Mutual respect – at all times.*

**To minimize distractions, please turn off and put away your cell phones and other electronic devices. Also, please no eating or drinking in class.**

**Classroom Etiquette.** Our classroom is a collaborative learning community. We each bring to this classroom a unique and valuable set of life experiences. We can learn from one another, and in the process discover who we are... who we are still becoming. In order for us to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to discover, learn, and evolve, we must create an environment in which we respect, celebrate, and support our differences.

**Attendance is mandatory.** If you do miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact your instructor and to check in with your class buddies to find out what you missed and what you need to do for the next class. **You will lose 10 points for every absence.** Class will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Late arrivals disrupt the class, so please be on time. Three late arrivals equal one absence. **A total of seven or more absences/late days will result in failure to pass the course.**

**Assignments.** The world of screenwriting is both exciting and terrifying. Professional writers provide one another with feedback in order to produce the strongest work possible. We will be taking advantage of our class writers and workshopping our assignments. For this reason (and to avoid the usual procrastination writers face), we have a strict deadline for all work. A completed assignment will decrease in value by 10% of its initial point total for each day it is late. A 100-point assignment, for example, will be worth 90 points on the first late day, 80 points on the second late day, and so on. Assignments late by seven (7/+) calendar days will not be accepted.

**Plagiarism:** All writing must be your own. If in doubt, see me prior to turning in your work.

**Content Warning** A college education provides you with a valuable opportunity to explore the world around you in new ways, broadening your life experiences. Literature, film studies and creative writing, in particular, reflect the human condition in all its complexity and sometimes contain content (profanity, violence, sexuality, etc.) that may offend you. If you would prefer not to expose yourself to these issues through readings, films, class discussions, and workshops then this may not be the class for you.

“Why do writers write? Because it isn’t there.” Thomas Berger

## WCC RESOURCES

- ✚ Free tutoring is available through TRiO Student Support Services; request a tutor early. The contact number for the TRiO office is 235-7487.
- ✚ The Writing Lab located in the library provides you with supportive writing coaches.
- ✚ MySuccess is an early alert system currently available for student support. If I feel you may be struggling, I may refer you to this service.
- ✚ Karla Silva-Park, WCC’s Mental Health Counselor, is available for support at 235-7468.
- ✚ Student Services counselors are also available to assist students with academic questions. Call 235-7413 to make an appointment.

**Disabilities Accommodation Statement.** If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Dr. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale ’Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

## 204C GOALS



Besides earning an “A” for this course, what are your goals as a writer? Identify at least three, and explain how you plan to reach these goals.

Goals	Strategies to reach goals

COURSE POLICIES CONTRACT

I have read through and reviewed the above Course Policies and the entire syllabus (ENG 204C). By signing this document, I acknowledge not only that I understand the policies and requirements of this course, but also that I understand the consequences of not following these policies.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you hope this course will teach you?
2. What are your goals in this class? (Identify at least 3.)
3. How can I help you meet these goals?
4. What do you intend to do to meet them?
5. What grade would you be satisfied with in this course? Why?
6. What else would you like me to know about you?