

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Creative Media 204C/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

- Scripts and readings (available under “Resources” tab)
- Writers journal—a composition book or journal used for 204C
- Pens & highlighters (different color inks)
- Screenwriting software: Google or Celtx (both free); Movie Magic, Final Draft, etc.
*Students have used both Celtx and Google and found both worked well.

ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Creative Media 204C/English 204C will be taught online using Laulima, an online educational program. Students must have basic computer literacy and a University of Hawai‘i ID and password to access Laulima and join class activities.

This online class involves discussions, group work, and other forms of participation throughout the semester. Full participation in all activities will have a positive impact on your writing performance and progress.

The flexible nature of online coursework requires self-discipline and responsibility. The following description of “online learners” was developed by Foothill College in California. Online learning is ideal for individuals who...

- are self-motivated.
- are self-directed learners.
- are good readers.
- do not procrastinate.
- prefer an individualized mode of learning.
- do not need the stimulation of a traditional class.
- are excited by and fairly comfortable with technology.

Other requirements:

- Ability to access the course for **approximately 6-10 hours a week**.
- Motivation to adapt to a non-traditional learning environment.

ONLINE COURSE SUCCESS

In this class, to be self-motivated and self-directed (and successful), you should:

1. Print out this syllabus and annotate it, indicating anything you have questions about.
2. Print out the weekly assignments schedule and schedule your time responsibly.
3. Familiarize yourself with our Lulima class site. I will continue to add valuable resources, which I will note in ANNOUNCEMENTS.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Study examples, whenever provided, and follow the best practices modeled.
6. Post questions to the “Questions” forum. The Questions Forum provides an opportunity for you to reach out to your peers for support or clarification.
7. Help one another by replying to the posted questions. You will learn more from answering peers’ questions than from reading and studying in isolation. I will check in and offer comments, as needed.
8. E-mail or call me (Desi): (poteetd@hawaii.edu). For fastest response, please use my cell phone number (provided in the first ANNOUNCEMENT). I am here to support you.
9. Even though this is an online course, please feel free to see me in person. My office is ‘Ākoakoa 237, located above the WCC Bookstore.

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 LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for Creative Media 204C/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 CONTENT, TASKS, GRADING, AND ASSESSMENT

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, writing assignments, reading essays, reading and critiquing short screenplays, and participating in writing workshops.

Schedule of Course Learning Activities

Weeks	<i>Weekly Focus Learning Opportunities</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>
1-15	Online Weekly Postings (points based on weekly participation)	150
1	<i>The War of Art</i> Reading Response	10
2	Fairy Tale Adaptation	10
3	Characters (develop 3 main characters: protagonist, ally, antagonist)	30
4	World (build three settings for your characters to inhabit)	30
5	Challenges (develop challenges for your protagonist to overcome)	30
6	Story Development (craft your storyline)	20
7	Conference with Desi regarding your story	10
7	Screenplay Format Exercise	20
8	Analysis and Rewrite (based on conference regarding story)	10
8	Short Screenplay Development–“Ordinary World”	15
9	Short Screenplay Development–“Adventure in the New World”	15
10	Short Screenplay Development–“Conflict in the New World”	15
11	Short Screenplay Development–“Resolution and Return to the OW”	15
12	Film Review due (optional)	10
12	Conference with Desi regarding your screenplay	10
13	Analysis and Rewrite (based on conference regarding screenplay)	10
13, 14	Short Screenplay Revision (20 pages in screenplay format)	25
15	Reflection essay based on <i>The War of Art</i> (≅ 3 pages)	50
15	Competition Submission (Submit to WCC’s <i>Pueo</i>)	5
16	Final Conference with Desi to discuss your progress and grade	10

You are responsible for your final grade. It will be based on the quality and timely completion of assignments, online class participation, and insightful work. **I reserve the option of modifying assignments and due dates to benefit and support the learning needs of our class community.**

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.

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MORE INFORMATION

Mutual respect – at all times.

Assignments. The world of screenwriting can be both exciting and daunting. 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 strict deadlines 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. Work ahead of schedule to avoid challenges that may prevent you from completing your work on time. Weekly postings can NOT be made up

Communication is key. Please keep me posted. If you encounter challenges in your life, let me know, so we can find ways for you to succeed in this class. You can call me, e-mail me, drop by my office during office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me. . **If you are running into challenges, see me and we'll work together on a strategy of success for you.**

Content Warning A college education provides you with a valuable opportunity to explore the world around you in new ways, broadening your life experiences. Research can uncover challenging and uncomfortable topics. In addition, literature, in particular, reflects the human condition in all its complexity, and sometimes contains content (profanity, violence, sexuality, etc.) that may offend you. If you would prefer not to expose yourself to these things through readings, audio books, films, class discussions, etc., then this may not be the class for you.

Academic Integrity. Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.

Students can upload papers to <http://www.TurnItIn.com> to have papers checked for authenticity, highlighting where the paper potentially fails to appropriately reference sources.

In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s): Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

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 Center located in the library provides you with supportive writing coaches.
- MySuccess is an early alert system currently available for student support. If you seem to be struggling, I may refer you to this service.
- WCC's Mental and Wellness Office can provide support. Call: 235-7468.
- Student Services counselors are also available to assist students with academic questions. Call 235-7413 to make an appointment.
- Online Support is available at: manoa.hawaii.edu/ola/
- Purdue Online Writing Lab is another great resource: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

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, or you may stop by Hale 'Ākoakoa 213 for more information.

Title IX. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: https://windward.hawaii.edu/title_IX/

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, WCC has resources to support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact the Mental Health & Wellness Office at (808) 235-7393 or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at (808) 235-7354 or kaahualo@hawaii.edu. To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Karla K. Silva-Park, at (808) 235-7468 or karlas@hawaii.edu.

Alternate Contact Information

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alaka'i 121

Phone: 235-7422

Email: wccaa@hawaii.edu

COURSE POLICIES CONTRACT

I have read through and reviewed the above Course Policies and the entire syllabus (CM 204C/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. Please complete contract and put it in your Laulima DROP BOX.

Signed: _____ (signature) _____ (date)

_____ (print name)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Preferred Name _____

Preferred Phone _____

Academic Counselor _____

1. What do you hope this course will teach you?

2. Besides earning an A, what are your goals as a writer 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?