Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

VID 210 Screenplays
Effective Term: Winter 2026

Course Cover

College: Business and Computer Technologies
Division: Business and Computer Technologies
Department: Digital Media Arts (new)
Discipline: Video Production
Course Number: 210
Org Number: 14540
Full Course Title: Screenplays
Transcript Title: Screenplays
Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No
Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page
Reason for Submission: Course Change
Change Information:
    Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.
    Course description
    Outcomes/Assessment
    Objectives/Evaluation
Rationale: Updating for Canvas.
Proposed Start Semester: Winter 2025
Course Description: In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of screenwriting for film, television, and digital media, focusing on storytelling, character development, and plot structure. Through hands-on exercises, students will generate original ideas, craft compelling characters, write engaging dialogue, and construct well-paced scenes. Emphasizing screenplay formatting and visual storytelling, the course also explores revision techniques to refine scripts through multiple drafts. By the end of the course, students will complete a polished screenplay scene or short script, demonstrating their mastery of core screenwriting principles.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No
Credits: 3
Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Lab: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0
Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Repeatable for Credit: NO
Grading Methods: Letter Grades
Audit
Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites
Prerequisite
VID 105 minimum grade "C"
and
Prerequisite
VID 125 minimum grade "C"

General Education

Request Course Transfer
Proposed For:
Eastern Michigan University
Grand Valley State University
Jackson Community College
Michigan State University
Oakland University
Wayne State University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Create a realistic character by applying techniques of character development.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related assignment(s)
   Assessment Date: Winter 2027
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score at the competent (3) level or above on a 1-4 scale.
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Write dialogue that reflects the created character.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related assignment(s)
   Assessment Date: Winter 2027
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score at the competent (3) level or above on a 1-4 scale.
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Write one original screenplay that demonstrates all aspects of screenplay formatting, including story development, character development, writing action lines and writing a dialogue.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Final screenplay
   Assessment Date: Winter 2027
   Assessment Cycle: Every Two Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All sections
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score at the competent (3) level or above on a 1-4 scale.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

1. Conduct and complete writing exercises to cultivate/create story ideas, fresh content, and characters.
2. Write a set-up to a story that would captivate the attention of an audience.
3. Identify non-fictional sources and translate them into a fictional character.
4. Develop plot points.
5. Write and develop realistic characters.
6. Write dialogue that reflects each character's tone and sounds conversational when the dialogue lines are read aloud.
7. Pre-visualize and construct a scene, including creating a narrative within that scene (beginning, middle, end).
8. Write action lines that concisely and clearly define what is seen on the screen, apart from dialogue.
9. Rewrite and revise the first draft of their screenplays.

New Resources for Course

Writing pad or laptop computer.

Text book: "Screenplay: Fundamentals of Writing a Screenplay" written by Syd Field.

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks

Field, Syd. *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*, 4th ed. Delta, 1979, ISBN: 9780385339032.

Manuals

Periodicals

Software

Equipment/Facilities

Level III classroom

Computer workstations/lab

TV/VCR

Data projector/computer

Reviewer	Action	Date
Faculty Preparer:		
Matthew Zacharias	*Faculty Preparer*	*Jun 29, 2024*
Department Chair/Area Director:		
Kevin Bindschadler	*Recommend Approval*	*Jul 01, 2024*
Dean:		
Eva Samulski	*Recommend Approval*	*Jul 01, 2024*
Curriculum Committee Chair:		
Randy Van Wagnen	*Recommend Approval*	*Jul 23, 2025*
Assessment Committee Chair:		
Jessica Hale	*Recommend Approval*	*Jul 30, 2025*
Vice President for Instruction:		
Brandon Tucker	*Approve*	*Jul 31, 2025*

Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

VID 210 Screenplays
Effective Term: Fall 2013

Course Cover

Division: Business and Computer Technologies
Department: Digital Media Arts
Discipline: Video Production
Course Number: 210
Org Number: 14540
Full Course Title: Screenplays
Transcript Title: Screenplays
Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No
Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page
Reason for Submission: New Course
Change Information:
   Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.
Rationale: Course conditionally approved, seeking full approval.
Proposed Start Semester: Fall 2012
Course Description: In this course, students are introduced to the fundamentals of screenplay construction. The script construction process examines story, theme, character development, plot and scene structure, dialogue and action descriptions. This course requires the student to develop an entire screenplay intended for production in other advanced courses.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No
Credits: 3
Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Lab: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0
Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Repeatable for Credit: NO
Grading Methods: Letter Grades
Audit
Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

Prerequisite
VID 105 minimum grade "C+"
and
Prerequisite
VID 125 minimum grade "C+"

General Education
Request Course Transfer
Proposed For:
College for Creative Studies
Eastern Michigan University
Grand Valley State University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an original screenplay.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Final Screenplay
   Assessment Date: Fall 2015
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All
   Number students to be assessed: All Students
   How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 75% or higher on the screenplay.
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives
1. Recognize and describe the fundamentals of screenplay construction - story, theme, structure, character development, plot and action descriptions.
   Matched Outcomes
2. Follow a series of step-by-step exercises to develop, construct, and write an original screenplay for a video project.
   Matched Outcomes
3. Generate story ideas that engage and connect with audiences.
   Matched Outcomes
4. Develop simple story concepts into compelling stories.
   Matched Outcomes
5. Create characters that audiences can identify with and care about.
   Matched Outcomes
6. Summarize a story in a logline (chart) and test its structure in a synopsis.
   Matched Outcomes
7. Visualize scenes in the form of a formatted screenplay.
   Matched Outcomes
8. Recognize the value of revision and modification in the storytelling and creative process.
   Matched Outcomes

New Resources for Course
Writing pad or laptop computer.

Course Textbooks/Resources
Textbooks
Manuals
Periodicals
Software
Equipment/Facilities
Level III classroom

Reviewer	Action	Date
Faculty Preparer:		
Matthew Zacharias	*Faculty Preparer*	*Jan 17, 2012*
Department Chair/Area Director:		

Jennifer Baker	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 17, 2012*
Dean:		
Rosemary Wilson	*Recommend Approval*	*Jan 17, 2012*
Vice President for Instruction:		
Stuart Blacklaw	*Approve*	*Feb 18, 2013*