Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3070	Course Title: Intermediate Screenwriting	Date of Offering: W 18

Course Instructor: E. Chang	

Brief Course Synopsis:

(subject to change)

With an emphasis on craft, this introductory seminar addresses some fundamentals of feature screenwriting through various writing, reading and viewing assignments and exercises, and the workshopping of students' written work. Topics will include: story structure, theme, character development, story lines, scene construction, synopsis writing and pitching, script and film analysis and options for further training and development. Students will work individually and in small groups on screenplay/film breakdowns; the writing of short film scripts and scenes; a production exercise; and the evaluation of each other's writing. The final assignment will be either 1) a feature-length script (approx. 90-120 pages); 2) a 25-30 page treatment for a feature-length film with 2 sample scenes; or 3) a "spec script" for a TV series episode, following the series' structural and other guidelines, together with a 5-page introduction that clearly establishes the show's essential elements (show runner/head writer and regular cast, major characters, recurring story lines, number and type of subplots per episode, typical pacing and tone, etc.). Industry-accepted script format is required, in all relevant assignments.

Course Format: Seminar: brief informal lectures and presentations; workshops; discussions, planning sessions and critiques.	Methods of Evaluation and Weights: TBD: combination of individual scripts of varying lengths, group work, and screenplay analysis. No final exam.

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Screenwriting software (e.g., Final Draft); device for uploading and working with scenes and scripts during class (e.g., laptop or tablet); assigned screenplays and films.
Recommended text: Linda Seger, *Making a Good Script Great*.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):
Satisfies 20th/21st C. distribution requirement. Restriction: registration in the Creative Writing minor. Small group work is a mandatory component of the course, required to earn a passing grade; students who fail to meet their obligations to their groups (on 2 or more activities or assignments) will automatically forfeit this component.