

## 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 Workshop	Date of Offering: W23
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Course Instructor: Elaine Chang	Course Format: Blended
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#### Brief Course Synopsis (subject to change):

With an emphasis on craft, this seminar addresses fundamentals of screenwriting through writing, reading, and viewing assignments and exercises; and the ongoing workshopping of students' creative work from initial idea conception to execution on the page. Topics 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. Teaching materials will be drawn from film, television, digital media, and popular video culture; learning activities and assignments will principally consist of short-form screenplays and technical aspects of the discipline.

Students will be working consistently, individually and in small groups, on: breakdowns of increasing detail and precision of TV shows, films, and screenplays; the writing and rewriting of short film scripts and scenes; the evaluation of each other's informal and formal ideas and drafts; the process-oriented (over product-oriented) practice of rewriting and revision; and preparation for an original feature-length screenplay.

**Full participation in all collaborative course activities, reflective of an inescapably collective and labour-intensive discipline, is needed to pass this course.**

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight (subject to change):

Learning Activities: **10%** (credit on completion)  
Individual Viewing/Reading Notes: **5%** (credit on completion)  
Peer/Team Feedback (Discussions and "Notes"): **5%** (credit on completion)  
Team Screenplay and Film Breakdowns: **15%** (credit on completion)  
    TOY STORY 3: 5%  
    THE KING'S SPEECH (2 scripts): 10%

Approx. 5-page Script #1 (2-hander, site specific): **10%**  
Approx. 5-page Script #2 (feature "teaser"): **10%**  
Feature Screenplay Logline & Synopsis: **5%**

Final Assignment: toward your original feature: **40%**  
    Beat Sheet & Treatment: 20%  
    2 Sample Scenes: 20%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
(subject to change):

Industry-standard screenwriting software: Note—there are several software programs that are free/open-source or that offer limited free trial periods; TBD in Week 1

I will be assigning and making available to all insights and resources from multiple screenwriting books and materials, including complete and excerpted produced films, TV and digital series episodes; produced screenplays; and insights and online sources from several of the most highly influential and respected screenwriting teachers and experts (e.g., Linda Seger, Blake Snyder, William Goldman, Syd Field, Robert McKee, Christopher Vogler, and others).

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Creative Writing Minor

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Blended: between synchronous in-person and synchronous & asynchronous online

\*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.