



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

## Creative Writing: Screenwriting

**ENGL - 2615.02 - 20373**

**Semester:** Spring 2019

**Instructor:** Mr. Mark Botts

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Office Location:** Admin. 324

**Prerequisites:** None

**Office Hours:** MWF, 1 – 3

**Course Time:** 3/7 – 5/3, TR, 11 – 11:50

**Email:** mbotts@concord.edu

**Building and Room Number:** Marsh Hall 334

**Phone:** 304.384.5171

**Course Description/Rationale:** To engage students in the analyzing, conceptualizing, and writing of screenplays

**Course Management System:** Lecture. (Blackboard will also be utilized.)

**Hardware/Software Needed:** Screenwriting Software: There’s two industry leaders: Final Draft and Movie Magic Screenwriter. However, neither one is cheap. For the sake of this course, Writer Duet will be sufficient – and it’s free. Here’s a link: <https://writerduet.com>

**Text requirements:** None

### Concord University Educational Goal(s)

Course Objectives for English 260	CU Educational Goals
Through original writing, the students will demonstrate competency in reading, writing, and structuring story arc or poetic structure that match the overall intent of the writer.	Skills Goal #1a Effective intercommunication skills and literacies, adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse [ . . . including] reading [ . . . ]
By employing the writing skills of development of character and scenes, beginnings and endings, or poetic devices, the student will demonstrate writing competencies applicable to a broad range of creative writing possibilities.	Skills Goal #1 b Effective intercommunication skills and literacies, adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse [ . . . including] writing [ . . . ]
By receiving feedback from the instructor and peer reviewers, the students will internalize	Knowledge Goal #7 Self-knowledge, including awareness of one’s own competencies,

appropriate evaluation criteria so that they can develop metacognitive awareness of their own writing competencies and deficiencies.	deficiencies, and optimal individual learning-style(s)
By analyzing texts that present varying genres and/or various possible interpretations of story, drama or poetry, the students will develop a capacity for respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives.	Attitudes Goal #3 Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives & willingness to dialogue across in order to seek mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution

**Course Description/Rationale:** One-hour courses are designed to focus on major authors, genres, themes, or literary movements. They allow for focused intense study, often in the specific research area of the instructor. This course will explore the writing process, with emphasis on development of screenplay narratives, reading a published screenplay, analyzing a specific film, and giving/receiving feedback to/from the instructor and peers.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will have greater understanding/appreciation/application of critical thinking, the writing process, and communication within interpersonal and intrapersonal dynamics – as it specifically applies to creative writing and screenwriting.

**Course Requirements:** Attend class on time. Using mature rhetoric, engage with classmates and professor and text(s) during class sessions. Read/View and be prepared to discuss and/or write about all assigned texts. Submit all projects on time.

**Grading Policy:** The grade for this class will be a cumulative score, comprised of the following assignments, each worth 10% of your total score:

1. Character Biography
2. Logline
3. Beatsheet
4. One Page scene w/out dialogue
5. One Page scene w/dialogue
6. Notecards for script
7. Paradigm Test
8. Final (8 page) Script
9. Quizzes on film viewing
10. In-class interaction with instructor and peers

All assignments, other than the Final Script, are to be submitted as Word documents. The final script must be submitted according to industry standards for screenplays – which we will cover during class lectures.

**Grading Scale:** A = 90% - 100% / B = 80% - 89% / C = 70% - 79% / D = 60% - 69% / F = 0% - 59%

## **Course Timeline**

### Week 1

3/7 Intro to course. Overview of Story Paradigm & Film Viewing. Purpose of Screenplay.

### Week 2

3/12 NO CLASS: MLK DAY

3/14 Analysis: Opening Sequence of *Michael Clayton*. Character. Visual & Active Description.

### Week 3

3/19 Act I (Set-up). Character Bio due. Loglines.

3/21 Act I of *Michael Clayton*. Quiz. Beatsheets.

### Week 4

3/26 Format Rules & Screenwriting Software. Loglines due.

3/28 Act II (Confrontation). Quiz. Beatsheets due.

### Week 5

4/2 Act II of *Michael Clayton*. One Page Scene w/out dialogue due.

4/4 Act II of *Michael Clayton*. Quiz.

### Week 6

4/9 Act III (Resolution). One Page Scene w/dialogue due.

4/11 Act III of *Michael Clayton*. Quiz.

### Week 7

4/23 Notecard Session for Final Script.

4/25 Notecard Session for Final Script.

### Week 8

4/30 Paradigm Test.

5/2 Final Script due.

## **Accessibility/Accommodations**

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Concord University Honor Code**

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

## **Class/Online Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Emergency Alert System**

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

## **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the

Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:  
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

#### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

#### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

#### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

### **Student Conduct**

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

### **Sexual Harassment & Assault**

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or [titleix@concord.edu](mailto:titleix@concord.edu). Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

### **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**