Screenwriting Minor

Combining theory and practice, the Screenwriting Minor prepares students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. This minor integrates creative practice with critical study, developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms: fictional narrative film, experimental film, documentary, animation, television, and/or new media. Students will garner a foundational understanding of film history, theory, and storytelling conventions across media, to hone their distinct voice and gain crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing.

A Screenwriting minor requires the completion of 18 credit hours spread across four categories. Once all courses for the minor program have been completed, students must file a Checklist for Minor Form with the Film Studies and Moving-Image Production Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438. The minor program form must be filed before graduation application is submitted.

I. Introduction to Film Studies course  3 Credit Hours
Courses in this area focus on critical engagement with the cinema, the history of film, and Choose one course: understanding film as a cultural phenomenon.

Choose one course:
- ENGLISH 2263 - Introduction to Film (3)
- FILMSTD 2270 - Introduction to Film Studies (for non-majors) (3)
- FILMSTD 2271 - Introduction to Film Studies for Majors (3)
- HISTART 2901 - Intro to World Cinema (3)
- ACCAD 3350 - The History & Theory of Animation

II. Introduction to Storytelling course  3 Credit Hours
Students should choose a course that will help them explore writing styles that will aid them in the creation of specific types of screenplays. Options include exploring classic writing styles, writing fiction, or pursuing digital media composition.

Choose one course:
- ENGLISH 2220 - Introduction to Shakespeare
- ENGLISH 2261 - Introduction to Fiction
- ENGLISH 2262 - Introduction to Drama
- ENGLISH 2265 - Writing of Fiction 1
- ENGLISH 2268 - Writing of Creative Nonfiction 1
- ENGLISH 2269 - Digital Media Composing
- ENGLISH 4559 - Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory
- THEATRE 3731 - Theatre Histories and Literatures

III. Advanced Film Studies course  3 Credit Hours
Students should select a course that will allow them to study a mode of film production, the style of a specific director, or a regional cinema.

Choose one course:
- FILM STUDIES 3660 - Documentary Film Studies
- FILM STUDIES 4580 - Studies in a Major Director
- FILM STUDIES 4640 - Studies in Cinema History
- FILM STUDIES 4650 - Studies in Regional Cinema
- FILM STUDIES 4670H - Cinema and the Historical Avant-Garde
- FILM STUDIES 4895 - Senior Seminar in Film Studies

IV. Screenwriting Concentration  9 Credit Hours
The screenwriting concentration of the minor helps students move through multiple stages of screenwriting, from developing a story, creating a cinematic world, writing a short film script, understanding the business of being a screenwriter, and writing a feature length screenplay.

Introduction to Development Course: (3 hours)
- FILM STUDIES/ENGLISH 4800: Story Development for Film and Television

Introduction to Screenwriting Course: (3 hours)
- THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

Business of Screenwriting Course (3 hours) - Choose one course, either:
- FILM STUDIES 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema
- FILM STUDIES 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television

MINOR GUIDELINES

18 Credit hours required:
- Transfer and EM credit hours allowed. Student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.
- Overlap with GE: Student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between GE and minor.
- Overlap with major and additional minor(s): minor must be in a different subject than major. Minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from major and/or additional minor(s).
- Prerequisites: Some advanced courses included in minor have prerequisites; check with advisor for information.
- X193 credits: No more than 3 CH.

Grades required:
- Minimum C- grade for course to be listed on minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count toward minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of coursework graded Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory may count toward minor.

Approval required:
- Minor course work must be approved by Film Studies Academic Advisor.
- Minor program form must be filed prior to graduation application submission.
- Changes to minor: Once minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438.

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