**Course Number:** Comm-3360_001  
**Course Title:** Screenplay Writing  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Semester:** Maymester 2013  
**Time/Location:** MTWR 12:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. BH 207

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**Instructor:** Edward R. Tyndall  
**Office:** 327 Bay Hall  
**Office Hours:** Mon and Wed 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and Tues 11:00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.  
**Email:** edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu  
**Phone:** 361-825-2296

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**TEXT:** Writing Short Films by Linda J. Cowgill ISBN 0943728800

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**  
Access to a printer/ funds to print 25 copies of your script

**CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:**  
Analysis and writing of the screenplay for narrative fictional films. Writing projects include problem-solving exercises and work on an original screenplay.

**PRE/COREQUISITES:**  
None

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**  
- Demonstrate general knowledge of narrative screenwriting techniques for short and feature length screenplays.  
- Illustrate a mastery of dramatic structure through conceptualizing, outlining and writing multiple drafts of a short narrative screenplay.  
- Describe the relationship between story structure and effective media communication.

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:**  
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/documentation). No incompletes will be given for this course.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Strict attendance is required. There are no "excused" absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within 2 days of your return to class.

Given the condensed nature of maymester courses, after one unexcused absence the student will be given a failing grade in the course. Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.

DROPPING A CLASS:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.
ACADEMIC ADVISING:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

GRADING:
20% Script Pitch
20% Step Outline
20% First Draft
20% Final Draft
20% Workshop Participation and Readings

GRADING SCALE:
100 – 90 = A
89.99 – 80 = B
79.99 – 70 = C
69.99 – 60 = D
59.99 – 0 = F

TOPICAL OUTLINE:
Due --- None
Assignment --- Read “Writing Short Films”, Read “Shock Act”, Begin Work Pitches
May 20th --- Begin In Class Workshop For Pitches
Due --- Hand in Pitches

May 21st --- Finish In Class Workshop For Pitches
Book Reading Due --- Reading of “Writing Short Films” completed.
Assignment --- Write Step Outlines

May 22nd --- Begin In Class Workshop For Step Outlines
Due --- Step Outlines

May 23rd --- Finish In Class Workshop For Step Outlines
Assignment --- Write First Drafts!

May 27th --- No Class, Labor Day!

May 28th --- Begin In Class Workshop For First Drafts
Due --- Turn in First Draft! Bring Enough Copies for Everyone

May 29th --- Finish In Class Workshop For First Drafts
Assignment --- Write Second Drafts!

May 30th --- Writing Day/ Scheduled One-on-one Meetings

May 31st --- Turn in Second Drafts as Final Exam
Due --- Second Draft

Resources for Screenwriters

Screenwriting Format:
Software available for formatting includes Movie Magic Screenwriter and Final Draft. These programs will greatly increase your writing efficiency given the technical formatting issues required in writing scripts. You should be able to get a copy of these programs at an academic discount from several vendors.

If you decide to “do it yourself” you can find information regarding proper formatting techniques at http://www.simplyscripts.com/WR_format.html

You can also use Celtx, which is free and downloadable at http://celtx.com/

Screenwriting Magazines:
The following magazines are great resources for information regarding screenwriting. They have associated websites with all sorts of valuable information.

Creative Screenwriting
http://www.csweb.ws/csw/index.cfm
Script Magazine
http://www.scriptmag.com/

Creative Screenwriting Magazine also has a great Podcast available for free through the iTunes Store that features weekly interviews with working screenwriters.

Filmmaker Magazine
Filmmaker Magazine is a great resource for independent filmmakers
http://filmmakermagazine.com

IndieWire
Indiewire is filled with great blogs and news related to indie film production
http://www.indiewire.com

**Withoutabox:**
You can submit screenplays (and films) to film festivals by going to Withoutabox
http://www.withoutabox.com/, create an account, and choose from the “Call for Scripts” section to pick festivals. If you decide to submit to one, you should be able to receive a discounted rate for most festivals using your student status.