

COURSE OUTLINE

MASS-221

Writing for Television and Radio

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course focuses on a basic approach to the different kinds of writing done for all types of television and radio programs. Students enrolled in this class will learn to write using standard and accepted broadcast script formats. Treatments, drafts and full scripts for a variety of program types will be explored in this class.

Prerequisite: ENGL-121 or ENGL-101. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as ENGL-221.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify elements of news and evaluate news coverage.
2. Display research, note-taking, and interviewing skills to gather news.
3. Write a variety of clear, concise leads for simple news stories.
4. Construct accurate, interesting, succinct news stories that communicate facts and ideas clearly using inverted pyramid structure and other organizing principles.
5. Describe the origin of stories.
6. Identify the elements of conflict.
7. Describe story form.
8. Define the story with regard to characterization, action, main intentions, and effect on the audience.
9. Analyze writing for the visual media.
10. Demonstrate the various script formulas.
11. Construct a script outline and treatment.
12. Compose the writing script to include dialogue, action, timing the dialogue.
13. Organize and package a script for selling.
14. Compare specialized writing for film and television to include television commercials, television interview or talk shows, television game shows, soap operas, documentaries, and miscellaneous television writing.

Major Topics

- I. The Writer's Challenges
 - A. Media's demands on the writer
 - B. Innate talents of the writer
 - C. Acquiring skills of the writer
 - D. Getting down to writing

- II. Writing Non-Dramatic Material
 - A. Commercials and Public Service Announcements
 - B. Interview, Talk, and Call-In Shows
 - C. Documentary, Feature, Magazine and Reality Programs
 - D. Educational and Corporate Programming
 - E. Editorials and Commentaries
 - F. News
 - G. Sports and Special Events
 - H. Music, Variety, and Game Shows

- III. Writing a Screenplay
 - A. Summon Muse
 - B. Dream movie idea
 - C. Develop core story
 - D. Create movie people
 - E. Step out story
 - F. Write first draft
 - G. Make necessary revisions

- IV. How to Sell Your Script - A Marketing Plan
 - A. Selling your script without an agent
 - B. Television and Hollywood's back door

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least one exam and the following writing projects:

- 30 second PSA or commercial
- Interview
- Newscast
- 20 page (minimum) dramatic script

Other Course Information

This course is a Humanities and an Arts and Science elective.