C A P I L A N O UNIVERSITY **COURSE OUTLINE**	
TERM: Fall 2014	**COURSE NO.**: IDF 233
INSTRUCTORS:	**COURSE NAME**: Screenwriting
OFFICE:	**SECTION NO.**:
LOCAL:	**COURSE CREDITS:** 3

MISSION STATEMENT: The Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking program provides culturally relevant and technically advanced digital media production training to Indigenous learners.

COURSE FORMAT: 4 lecture hours per week over 15 weeks.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

General:

The student will learn Indigenous storytelling techniques. The students will gain experience in the role of the writer in an actual dramatic production, and specifically in Indigenous production. Students will learn to develop the beats, acts, sequences and write a short screenplay.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion, students will:

- Utilize the elements, structures and processes required to develop a screenplay;
- Apply narrative story structure;
- Describe the role and duties of the writer in narrative production;
- Employ professional work ethics and practices;
- Demonstrate proficiency in using accepted formats and practices in writing screenplays for film production;
- Apply advanced writing skills to produce a short screenplay;
- Critique (story edit) theirs and other scripts for flaws in structure and determine suggestions for improvement;
- Formulate a positive work relationship with producers, directors and actors;
- Operate effectively under the pressures of production.

COURSE CONTENT:

WEEK	CONTENT
1	Overview of screenplay structure; plot and devices
2	Overview of screenplay structure; formats, practices and process
3	Advanced skills in pitching the story **Assignment I:** Pitch **Assignment II:** Log line & synopsis
4	Review of character and story arcs, inciting incident & treatment development **Assignment III:** World of the story **Assignment IV:** Character profiles
5	Advanced screenplay do's and don'ts **Assignment V:** Beat sheet
6	Work ethics and practices of the professional writer **Assignment VI:** Short Treatment
7	Advanced troubleshooting **Assignment VII:** Long Treatment
8	Advanced writing skills
9	Advanced writing skills **Assignment VIII:** First draft of screenplay
10-11	In depth screenplay analysis;
12	Advanced screenplay editing **Assignment IX:** Second draft of screenplay
13	Writing a critique
14	Screenplay breakdown
15	Professional protocols and communication with producer, director & actors **Assignment X:** Third draft of screenplay

REQUIRED TEXT: Resource material will be provided by the instructor.

EVALUATION PROFILE:
Standards of Professional Behaviour Expectations:
Professionalism   5%
Self-awareness skills   5%
Communication skills   5%
Teamwork skills   5%
Assignment I Pitch   5%
Assignment II Log line & synopsis   5%
Assignment III World of the story description   5%
Assignment IV Character profiles   5%
Assignment V Beat sheet   10%
Assignment VI Short Treatment   5%
Assignment VII Long Treatment   5%
Assignment VIII First draft of screenplay   10%
 Assignment IX Second Draft of screenplay   10%
Assignment X Final draft of screenplay   20%
TOTAL: **100%**

Professionalism, self-awareness skills, communication skills and teamwork skills are used for the purpose of evaluation and are described under the IIDF Standards for Professional Behaviour Expectations, attached to this course outline. Students will be given regular feedback on their progress during the course.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 0 – 49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments are tailored to ensure students are aware of the cultural, social and political implications of Indigenous production. All exercises and assignments must be completed.

Assignment I Pitch 3 different story ideas for a 3-5 minute show.

Assignment II Log line & synopsis, write a 1 sentence description and a 1 paragraph description of the story.

Assignment III World of the story, write a 3 paragraph description of the world of the story.

Assignment IV Character profiles, write1-3 paragraph description of each character.

Assignment V Beat sheet - write a description of each beat of the story.

Assignment VI Write a 3-6 page description of the directorial style and events of the story written in present tense.

Assignment VII Write a 3-6 page description of the directorial style and events of the story written in present tense.

Assignment VIII First draft of screenplay.

Assignment IX Second draft of screenplay. Students will incorporate the feedback that they received from the instructor consultation and grading of the first draft into their second draft of their screenplay.

Assignment X Final draft of screenplay. Students will incorporate the feedback that they received from the instructor consultation and grading of the second draft into their third/final draft of their screenplay

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation, and other educational issues. Copies of these and other policies are distributed to all students during the registration process

and are also available in the library or on the University Calendar website:
http://www.capilanou.ca/current/policies.html

ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance is essential. Please refer to the IIDF Standards for Professional Behaviour
Expectations.

Penalties for Missing Class
Attendance will be taken daily. Please refer to the IIDF Standards for Professional Behaviour
Expectations.

Responsibility for Material Covered during a Missed Class
When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during
their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and hand-outs.

PUNCTUALITY
Punctuality is essential. Please refer to the IIDF Standards for Professional Behaviour
Expectations.

PENALTIES FOR LATENESS
Students more than 15 minutes late for class will be marked absent.

PARTICIPATION
Students will be evaluated on knowledge of readings/assignments as recommended in class,
attendance and active engagement in class discussions.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
All assignments must be presented at the beginning of class on the due date.

Acceptance of Late Assignments
Late assignments will be accepted only if a doctor's certificate of illness or a death certificate,
in the case of the death of a close family member, is provided, or the instructor has given
approval for a late submission date.

Late assignments will not be accepted after the assignments have been returned and the
answers discussed in class.

Make-up Exams and Quizzes
Students will be allowed to make up quizzes only if a doctor's certificate of illness is
provided, in the case of the death of a close family member, a death certificate is provided, or
the instructor has given approval for a late submission date.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Definition of Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional presentation of another person's work, ideas, insights, interpretations, sequence of ideas, or oral historic knowledge as if they were one's own. Plagiarism is both dishonest and a rejection of the principles of scholarship.

Information about Cheating and Plagiarism
Information about how to avoid plagiarism by proper documentation of sources is available from the Library and the Writing Centre.

Oral Examination
In cases in which plagiarism is suspected, the instructor may require a student to take an oral examination on the assignment submitted before a grade is given on that assignment.

Penalties for Cheating and Plagiarism
A grade of "0" for an examination, quiz or assignment, or "F" for the course, may be assigned if cheating or plagiarism has taken place. First incidents deemed to be particularly serious, or second or subsequent incidents of cheating and plagiarism, will be dealt with under the provisions of the *University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism* (see APPENDIX 7B).

University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism
All students should familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism* as such behaviour can result in suspension from the University.

GRADES OF INCOMPLETE "I"
Assignment of Incomplete
Students who fail to meet deadlines during the semester will not be granted an Incomplete "I". Arrangements should be made in writing between the instructor and the student specifying the exact nature of the work to be done and the date it is to be submitted.
Conditions for Granting an Incomplete
Grades of Incomplete "I" will be granted only if there is a valid reason for extending the evaluation deadline and if students have a reasonable chance of improving their grade to pass the course.

Grades of Incomplete "I" will be given if a doctor's certificate of illness or a death certificate, in the case of the death of a close family member, is provided. If the extension date for the submission of incomplete assignments is not met, the grade will automatically revert to the grade based on the student's present achievements.

ENGLISH USAGE

Standard of Usage
At the first year level, students are expected to write in clear sentences and to produce organized and developed paragraphs. All written work submitted must use good academic English and follow the guidelines provided in the Capilano University Guide to Writing Assignments (available from the University Bookstore).

Evaluation

All assignments are marked for correct English usage. It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all their writing for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors.

FORMATTING

All essays or similar work submitted for grading must be typewritten (done with a typewriter or word processor).

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

Students should be able to demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour toward work, fellow-students and their instructor. Each student should demonstrate reliability, respect for and co-operation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions, as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, is necessary in this course. Students should have respect for equipment and systems, and constructive response to criticism. Please refer to the IIDF Standards for Professional Behaviour Expectations.

COMPUTER COURSE REQUIREMENTS/POLICIES

Students are expected to abide by the **Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services** in any use of computers at the University. This statement can be obtained from your department, the Library, Computer Services or on the University web site: (http://www.capilanou.ca/current/policies/University-Policies/appropriate-use.html)